

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**'Sideways' tops Golden Globe nomination list**

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Paul Giamatti, left, and Thomas Haden Church



**1st AD battalion off to States for Longbow training**

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**Seville offers warm Christmas experience**

Quick Trips, Page 13

Volume 63, No. 241 © SS 2004 G

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004

50¢

# 7 Marines killed in weekend Iraq battles

Later, suicide car bomb takes 13 lives outside Green Zone Page 5

## Four more set for postseason

Back page

Center: Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw just two touchdown passes, but that was enough to beat the Texans and clinch the AFC South title. Indianapolis was one of four teams to earn division titles on Sunday. Top right: T.J. Duckett scores the third of his four touchdowns in the Falcons' rout of Oakland, which gave Atlanta the NFC South crown. Bottom right: Steelers free safety Chris Hope (28) is greeted by teammates Russell Stovalls (33) and Troy Palamalu (43) after Hope's interception sealed Pittsburgh's victory over the New York Jets and the AFC North title. Bottom left: Bengals linebacker Brian Simmons grabs the face mask of Corey Dillon, who earned his first trip to the playoffs by helping the Patriots beat his former team and win the AFC East. Those four join Philadelphia in the postseason, with the remaining slots still to be filled. Full game coverage Pages 30-34



## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Alaska freighter accident:** The U.S. Coast Guard lowered a salvage team to a freighter that broke in two pieces when it ran aground off Alaska's coast, seen as a key step toward cleaning up a destructive, oily mess stretching for miles. A helicopter with a three-person salvage team took off from nearby Dutch Harbor on Sunday afternoon to undertake the short flight to the 738-foot Selendang Ayu, wrecked Wednesday in rough seas. Strong winds and waves had kept authorities from boarding either half of the ship.

## World

**Fighting in Sudan:** Cease-fire violations are on the rise in Sudan's bloodied Darfur region and the fighting is "poisoning" peace talks, where government and rebel negotiators met Monday for the first time, officials said.

Thirteen violations of a cease-fire agreement were confirmed in September and 54 were documented between October and mid-December, said Assane R. a spokesman for the African Union, which is mediating the talks.

"That means the violations are growing" in the western Sudan region, where the crisis has left tens of thousands dead and nearly 2 million homeless, Ba said.

**G-S violence:** A judge on Monday ordered 28 police officers to stand trial for their alleged brutality in a raid against anti-globalization protesters during the 2001 Group of Eight summit in Genoa, court officials said.

The start of the trial was set for April 6, according to the office of Genoa Judge Daniela Faraggi, who made the ruling.

The pre-dawn raid on the Diaz school in Genoa, which housed many protesters, was one of the most controversial episodes of the July 2001 summit. Some protesters said they were attacked as they slept.

Police said they were acting on a tip that violent demonstrators were hiding in the school.

**Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute:** German President Horst Kohler on Monday urged Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea to peacefully settle their border dispute, saying neither country could afford another conflict.

The Horn of Africa nations could not finance a repeat of their 1998-2000 border war, which cost each country an estimated \$1 million.

Ethiopia last month accepted "in principle" a ruling on its shared border with Eritrea that was made as a part of a peace deal ending the 2½-year war.

**Taiwan presidential shooting:** Taiwanese investigators said on Monday they've detained five suspects allegedly involved in making and selling the bullets used in the bizarre shooting that lightly injured the president on the eve of his re-election.

The arrests could be the biggest break in an investigation that has dragged on for



**Philippine market explosion:** Authorities said Monday that they have identified several suspects but made no arrests as they probed a possible business feud behind a bombing that killed at least 15 people in a southern Philippine market packed with Christmas shoppers. Both Muslim and communist rebels operate in General Santos, about 620 miles south of Manila, where a homemade bomb went off in the market on Sunday. At least 70 people were wounded, and some were in critical condition. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

months without producing many solid leads. The lack of progress has fed popular conspiracy theories that President Chen Shui-bian staged the March 19 attack to win last-minute sympathy voters.

The five suspects, who were involved with an illegal weapons workshop, were detained late last month in Tainan, the southern city where the president and Vice President Annette Lu were shot while parading in an open Jeep, said Wang Shen-jong, chief prosecutor in Tainan.

**Japanese abductions:** Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday called North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals decades ago "unjust and abominable" acts, as public pressure mounted on him to use economic sanctions to punish Pyongyang for the kidnappings.

Tokyo said it won't immediately punish North Korea with sanctions, despite calls to do so after forensic tests last week showed that human remains Pyongyang claimed belonged to a Japanese kidnapping victim turned out to belong to someone else.

Koizumi said he was aware of voters' demands for tougher action against Pyongyang.

**Canada same-sex marriages:** Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin was cool to the

idea of a national referendum on gay marriage and said Parliament should decide the issue.

Canada's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that gay marriage was constitutional, a landmark opinion allowing the federal government to call on Parliament to legalize same-sex unions nationwide.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has said he wants a national referendum on gay marriage.

"I think that this is an issue that Parliamentarians ought to decide," Martin said.

**Nuclear watchdog post:** Australia's foreign minister declined to comment Monday on a newspaper report that he had turned down a U.S. request to challenge International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei for his job.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the administration of President Bush wants Alexander Downer to take over the role because it regards ElBaradei as too soft on Iran's suspected nuclear program.

The newspaper also said that Washington bugged the phone of ElBaradei, an Egyptian diplomat who has headed the atomic agency since 1997, scrutinizing his calls in search of reasons to call for his ouster.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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## Correction

An Associated Press story and a Page 1 headline in Monday's edition about an Afghanistan marathon contained inaccurate information. The event was not the nation's first marathon.



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## Comics, horoscopes and advice, every day in Stars and Stripes

# Navy quashes rumors of holiday layoffs

## Officials hope to limit the number of civilian workers cut in new year

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

The Navy isn't putting pink slips into civilian workers' stockings this Christmas, despite talk floating around bases in Europe.

Navy officials are reviewing local national and Department of Defense civilian positions throughout Europe, and job cuts are expected, said Navy Region Europe spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Braun.

But they cuts will not be made immediately, she said.

"We do expect to have some ... this fiscal year [which ends September 30, 2005]," she said.

Negotiations are currently under way between the Navy, various governments and unions for base workers, but no date is set for a conclusion of talks, nor have any job cuts been decided, Braun said.

"The process is still ongoing ... but it's just too early in the process to estimate exactly how many people will be af-

fected or when those changes will take place," she said.

Even when positions are identified, officials will try to minimize any actual job loss, Braun said.

They expect to do this through normal worker attrition of those finishing their contracts or retiring, or even move people to other on-base positions.

Braun said details of any planned job cuts will be announced by officials after talks have been concluded.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment cased its colors on Thursday in Hanau, Germany. The unit is returning to the States to begin training on the AH-64D Apache Longbow. The new helicopter is replacing the AH-64A Apache. Once training is complete, the unit will return to Germany.

## Flying Dragons head to Texas to learn how to fly Longbows

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

A 1st Armored Division attack helicopter battalion in Hanau, Germany, is packing up and moving to Texas for the next year.

The 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment cased its colors during a ceremony on Fiegerhorst Casern on Thursday to prepare for the yearlong training mission and attack helicopter upgrade.

"It is tradition for the colors to accompany the unit wherever it goes," Maj. Mike Indovina, 1st AD spokesman, said during a telephone interview on Sunday.

The battalion, known as the Flying Dragons, will soon be in Fort Hood, Texas, upgrading the fleet of AH-64A Apaches to the newer AH-64D Apache Longbow. "The pilots and crew chiefs will be trained on the upgraded Longbow system. It is crucial that the system and the soldier be trained as a package," Indovina said in an e-mail message.

"The training of soldier and system will enhance the future war-fighting capability for the division

and the U.S. Army." Some of the training will take place at Fort Rucker, Ala., he stated.

The Longbow Unit Fielding Program is taking about 70 soldiers and their families to the States, while nearly 90 other troops will be reassigned within Germany.

"It's kind of sad to see the unit go. ... I would have liked to stay in Germany a little longer," Spc. Michael Johnston, a service-member who is going back to the States with the unit, said after Thursday's ceremony. Some of the battalion's soldiers will not be headed state-side because they will not have enough time left on their current tour to complete the training and return to Germany, Indovina said.

After the training, the unit and its new helicopters will return to Hanau and pick up where it left off. The Flying Dragons most recently deployed from May 2003 to July 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Task Force 1-501st ATK conducted daily reconnaissance and security operations around Baghdad.

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## Patch American teen bears gifts to Ethiopia

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Laura Ingold doesn't want to be a coddled kid.

So she's giving for Christmas instead of receiving.

Laura, a junior at Patch American High School, has spent recent months saving money for a plane ticket to Mettu, Ethiopia, where she will hand out soccer balls and school supplies she has collected for an orphanage.

Laura plans to help build a kindergarten and give soccer lessons to the children there.

Her plane left Saturday.

"Americans are so spoiled; I know that's stereotypical but it's true," Laura said.

"I want to get outside my comfort zone."

Laura and several members of her church, which has "adopted" the orphanage, are making the annual trip. The 16-year-old said her interest was sparked by photos from previous trips hanging on the Patch Chapel walls.

"I thought, 'If giving money can help all these kids, I could go there personally and give them the one thing they really need, which is love,'" she said.

Laura, the daughter of retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Bret and Amy Ingold, saved money by working at the base cinema for \$7.90 an hour.

She also took a summer job at the Stuttgart Health Clinic for \$5 per hour to help fund her \$1,015 plane ticket.

She also brainstormed ways to collect soccer balls and school supplies, such as a school supplies drive or treat where residents give out pencils and notebooks instead of candy.

In addition to her jobs, Laura is president of the junior class, plays soccer and runs cross-country.

Medical or missionary work might be in her future, she said.

She attends Protestant services but doesn't consider herself a member of any faith.

"I'm not really classified as anything, I just have my faith in God," Laura said. "It's too personal to be labeled."

Laura's desire to help others comes as no surprise to Army



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Laura Ingold, 16, a Patch American High School junior, saved money to buy a plane ticket for Ethiopia, where she will hand out soccer balls and school supplies.

Chaplain (Col.) Sherrill Munn, chaplain of the 6th Area Support Group.

"She is a very mature, dedicated, solid person," Munn said. "She has a very strong Christian faith, and is a very ethical, moral person and really involves herself into the community in any way she can."

In Bahrain, one of her father's previous stations, Laura said, she was impressed by how some people who were very poor were also completely satisfied with their lot in life.

They just wanted food and water.

Laura, who is scheduled to return Sunday, said she expected to find out if the Ethiopian orphans also wanted God in their lives.

"When I go there I want to share God's love, to show them God's love through me," she said. "If not, that's OK. I'll just play soccer with them and have fun."

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# New movie highlights 1st AD's Iraq mission

## 'Gunner Palace' to show in stateside theaters in February

BY TERRY BOYD  
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLTER, Germany — Filmmaker Michael Tucker is perplexed.

The Berlin-based documentary maker asks why America doesn't seem to care about the Iraq war or the American soldiers who are fighting it.

America, he says, has lost interest in the war and turned the channel to "Survivor" and "American Idol."

"My friends say, 'You're obsessed with this war,'" Tucker said in a telephone interview from his Berlin office. "I say, 'How can you not be?' The American people have no idea what life is like for these soldiers." Tucker, a Seattle native, has channeled his obsession into "Gunner Palace," the first feature-length film about the Iraq war, a film that he says is from the perspective of the soldiers themselves.

It's a film that may do for the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment — nicknamed "Gunner" — what HBO's "Band of Brothers" did for Easy Company of the 101st Airborne Division: Make them into American icons.

The movie is set to open Feb. 11 in six U.S. markets, then expand the following week to 15 markets. Tucker said they hopes to have pre-release screenings next month at major U.S. posts, such as Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Drum, N.Y., but those plans are not yet complete.

Tucker spent a total of two months with the September 2003 and April 2004 living with the unit at what soldiers call "Oda's Love Shack," a partially bombed-out palace on the Euphrates River where Saddam Hussein's son, Qadaffi, brought paramours for trysts.

The regiment set up headquarters at the palace complex, which they nicknamed "Gunnerland," while patrolling Al-Adhamiya, one of the most volatile sections of Baghdad. Tucker accompanied soldiers on countless missions and simply



Photos courtesy of Michael Tucker

**Above: Spc. Tom Susdorf's face graces the poster for "Gunner Palace," a movie by filmmaker Michael Tucker, who spent two months in Iraq documenting the war.**

**Right: Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery soldiers pose outside one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Al-Adhamiya.**

hung out with the troops. He said that left him with a sympathetic view to the soldiers that strongly runs counter to an image colored by soldiers' abuses of Iraqi captives at Abu Ghraib prison.

"I tended to give soldiers the benefit of the doubt," he said. "They didn't sandbag detainees (place sandbags over their heads). It shocked me you didn't see rougher treatment of detainees" given the constant threat level."

He did see, over time, mounting frustration among troops over the language barrier, and the fatigue of working nearly around the clock.

"It's a bunch of 20-year-old kids who just want to survive," he said. Gunnerland was a world between the reality of raids and attacks and the "real" world via the Internet, phones and the media. Tucker said. There were the funny moments, when soldiers would pull up to find suspects conveniently waiting to be caught, and darker moments when the U.S. troops rammed Humvees into houses, only to find out they had the wrong targets, he said.

Tucker said his goal is to show Americans



confronted with the reality of the war, without being voyeuristic, political or patronizing — a world that he finds inspiring and terrifying.

He quotes one of the men he calls "soldier-poets" (It's like (Spc.) Richmond Shaw said — "For y'all this is just a show, but we live in this movie.")

Tucker and his partner, Petra Epperlein, have shown "Gunner Palace" at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado and the Toronto Film Festival in Canada to enthusiastic reviews.

It is, said Tucker, art out of pain. It was painful getting to know and respect soldiers and officers such as Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke and Capt. Ben Colgan before they died in separate attacks, he said.

After that, he said, he couldn't make "something rah-rah." But neither could he make a film disrespectful of soldiers. Tucker said: "I must like that it shows them being human."

Tucker succeeded in keeping the film "apolitical," said Jon Powers, 26, a former 2-3 Field Artillery captain, now a schoolteacher in Buffalo, N.Y.

"It's a great movie ... for soldiers to see, and ... for their families and friends to see if they want to understand what we went through for 14 months," said Powers, who saw "Gunner Palace" at the Toronto Film Festival in September.

The film is, he said, an accurate depiction

of daily life made by a filmmaker given extraordinary access by Lt. Col. Bill Rabena, the battalion commander. Attempts by Stars and Stripes to reach Rabena were unsuccessful.

"People always ask me if there was censorship, if I had trouble getting access and all those issues," Tucker said.

Instead, he said, he had unrestricted access to soldiers in their off hours, to all missions and even to interrogations of suspected Iraqi insurgents. "They embraced you being there," Tucker said. "People just want their story told."

Whether the regiment's soldiers will be able to go to the pool base theater to watch themselves on the big screen remains unclear. Army and Air Force Exchange Service executives say that's unlikely, unless a major distributor with whom AAFES has a contractual relationship picks up the film, and it goes into wide release, said Judd Anstey, media branch manager at AAFES headquarters in Dallas.

Viewers should be prepared for what Powers calls "some down-and-dirty" footage, including a scene where soldiers are "playing guitars and basically hanging out," a peaceful moment interrupted by a mortar attack. "But once (the audience) gets over the shock, it will get a conversation started ... The guys who went with me to see it said, 'Is that what it was really like?'" ... I said, 'Yeah.'"

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*It's a great movie ... for soldiers to see, and ... for their families and friends to see if they want to understand what we went through for 14 months."*

Jon Powers

Former 2-3 Field Artillery captain

## Far from home, troops downrange shop for the holidays

BY WARD SANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are clicking and catalog-ordering their way through the holidays.

Troops serving a year in the war zone just can't hop down to Macy's to buy a gift for their sweetie, so they're ordering merchandise from afar, and apparently more so than ever before. According to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, online and catalog sales from holiday operations are up 29 percent over last holiday season.

Troops without Internet access are also ordering through "Opera-

tion Forward Santa," an AAFES initiative allowing them to simply pick an item from a downrange brochure. All troops have to do next is drop the completed order form off at the exchange at their post. Everything but gift baskets and flowers are gift-wrapped for free. So far, troops have spent about \$10,000 via the brochures.

"Some guys are obviously in locations where they don't have an Internet connection, or even a phone," said Judd Anstey, spokesman for AAFES headquarters in Dallas.

Beyond the Santa number, Anstey didn't have a separate figure

isolating gift purchases per se. "You can't say what they're buying for," he said. But the most popular items being purchased via catalog, brochure or online from Iraq and Afghanistan are flowers, electronics, jewelry, video games, toys and lingerie.

Other online retailers may well be seeing the same trends from deployed troops, but proving it is tough. Amazon.com offers gift-wrapping and mailing, but isn't seeing how successful it is. Craig Berman, a company spokesman, said the company typically doesn't discuss traffic numbers, but wasn't sure whether Amazon could even discern a servicemember in Baghdad from anyone else.

J.C. Penney maintains a Web page and telephone hot line specifically for customers with military addresses. However, spokeswoman Daphne Avila said the company didn't track the numbers separately.

"Electronics are a big deal," Anstey said. "There's a lot of free time on their hands."

The exchange has muscled up its online offerings of video games, computers, portable DVD players, music and movies.

Apparently, it's been noted. The December 2004 edition of Consumer Reports said that in a poll of 10,180 readers, AAFES ranked sec-

ond only to Amazon in the "Best Price" category for home electronics. Just like exchanges in calmer regions, locations downrange sell electronics in store as well as online or via catalog. And holiday catalog spree or not, physical stores apparently still have advantages.

"AAFES sells electronics on and offline," exchange commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost said in a news release. "Offering electronics in brick and mortar environments provides several benefits, not the least of which are the ability to see, touch and compare product as well as the instant gratification many orders can't provide."

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# Marines killed in Anbar province

## Al-Qaida-linked suicide bombing near Green Zone kills at least 13

By PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. Marines lost seven of its own Sunday in fighting in the Anbar province, the worst day for the Marines since October.

Meanwhile, an al-Qaida-linked suicide bomber blew up his vehicle Monday near cars waiting to enter the Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy and Iraq's interim government, killing 13 Iraqis on the first anniversary of Saddam Hussein's capture.

The seven Marines died in an action Sunday in the volatile Anbar province west of Baghdad, the deadliest day for the Marines since eight of their service members were killed by a car bomb Oct. 30 outside Fallujah.

The deaths brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

It was unclear where in Anbar the Marines were killed, but the province includes the turbulent cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, the latter of which witnessed a bloody weekend offensive last month to uproot extremist Islamic militants.

A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives-packed car near a checkpoint leading into central Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, killing 13 Iraqis and wounding 15 others in an attack for which Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed credit. No U.S. troops were injured.

A U.S. soldier with the 1st Corps Support Command was killed and another wounded Mon-

day in a vehicle accident near a military base in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. It was unclear what caused the accident.

On Sunday, American jets dropped 10 precision-guided missiles on rebel positions in Fallujah after insurgents fought running battles with coalition forces.

"We are still running into some of these die-hard insurgents that have either come back into the city or have been laying low," spokesman Lt. Lyle Gilbert said. "As we are bringing in contractors to help with the reconstruction of Fallujah, this (fighting) slows the process down."

Further west in Ramadi, 10 explosions were heard early Monday.

No details were immediately available on what caused them nor if there were casualties. The blasts came a day after insurgents and Marines traded artillery fire that killed one woman.

A U.S. Stryker brigade patrol was attacked by a car bomb in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, on Monday, wounding two American soldiers. U.S. troops and gunmen fought gun battles after the blast.

In Tarmiyah, on Baghdad's northern outskirts, three more U.S. troops were wounded by a car bomb blast that wrecked two Humvees, pieces of which were raised into the air by jubilant Iraqi men who danced around their charred hulks and a large crater blown into the road by the explosion.

Eight of Saddam's 11 detained top lieutenants won on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand jail visits from the Interna-



A U.S. soldier secures the area Monday after a car bomb attack in Baghdad. A suicide bomber killed 13 people in the attack near the heavily fortified area in central Baghdad housing the interim government and U.S. embassy.

tional Committee of the Red Cross, but were eating again by Monday, a U.S. military spokesman said. The former dictator never joined the protest. "They don't acknowledge the legality of their trials or their intent," said the lawyer, Bader Zayat Aref, an Iraqi appointed by the family of former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

It was impossible to say if the apparent protest was timed to the anniversary of Saddam's capture.

The detainees have been held for months in an undisclosed location, believed to be near the Baghdad International Airport, west of the capital.

In Rome, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zehari assured Pope John Paul II that Saddam and other former regime members would be treated fairly and brought to trial as soon as possible after the January elections.

"The same justice they denied us we are going to give it to them," he said.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,289 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths, Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,151 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. Marine was killed Sunday in action in Anbar province.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad's northern suburbs.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Chief Warrant Officer Patrick J. Leach, 36, Rock Hill, S.C., and Army 1st Lt. Andrew C. Shields, 25, Campobello, S.C.

Both soldiers were killed Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, Columbia, S.C.

## Newspaper: Guard soldiers more likely to die in Iraq than active-duty troops

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Unlike in past wars, National Guard soldiers are about one-third more likely to be killed in Iraq than their full-time counterparts on active duty, a USA Today analysis of Pentagon statistics says.

According to figures furnished by the military branches, the active Army has sent about 250,000 soldiers to Iraq, and 622 have been killed. That works out to one death for every 402 soldiers who have deployed, USA Today reported in its Monday editions.

About 37,000 Army Guard soldiers have been sent to Iraq and 140 have died there — one fatality for every 264 soldiers who have served, or about a 35 percent higher death rate.

There are several reasons for the greater death rates among

so-called part-time soldiers. The Pentagon has called up thousands of part-time troops for tours of a year or more in Iraq. Some of the most dangerous missions, including driving convoys and guarding bases and other facilities, frequently are assigned to Guard and reserve troops.

Guard and reserve casualties have spiked during major battles such as the attack on Fallujah, largely carried out by Army and Marine troops. But such engagements have been rare since President Bush declared major combat over in May 2003.

The elevated death rates among part-time soldiers are a significant shift from the past, USA Today reported. During most wars in the last century, the full-time military took most of the casualties, and their troops were much more likely to die in battle than Guardsmen and reservists.

## Mortar attack on U.S. base injures three Afghan soldiers

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents rained mortar rounds on a U.S. base in Afghanistan, wounding three Afghan government soldiers, while American and Afghan officials announced Monday the arrests of 14 suspected Taliban.

Eleven mortar rounds fell near the base in southwestern Paktika province in the past 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The wounded soldiers from the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army were evacuated to a field hospital at a larger U.S. base in neighboring Khost province and were in stable condition, said Maj. Mark McCann.

No American soldiers were reported hurt in the incident.

McCann said eight Taliban members were detained in a raid about a week ago in Char Cheno district of Central Uruzgan province after American forces received intelligence on their whereabouts.

One was believed to be a brother of the former Taliban governor of Kandahar, the southern city that was the headline regime's capital. McCann declined to give his name.

Afghan troops seized another six suspected Taliban in the same province on Saturday, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Zaher Mohammed Azimi said. Two were Taliban commanders killed Mullah Ghulam Nahim and Abdul Qadir, he said.

Azimi also reported the wounding of six Afghan civilians in an explosion Saturday near Asadabad, in eastern Kunar province. Three were taken to the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, where they were recovering after treatment, he said.

The cause of the explosion was unclear, though the area has seen a spate of roadside bombings aimed at Afghan and U.S. security forces as well as clashes between rival Afghan factions.

About 18,000 mainly American troops continue to hunt militants in southern and eastern Afghanistan, three years after U.S. and allied forces ended the headline Taliban regime for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The U.S.-led force last week began a fresh winter-long offensive aimed at weakening rebels ahead of parliamentary elections slated for the spring, and at persuading Taliban foot-soldiers to accept an Afghan government amnesty.

# 6 GIs court-martialed for taking vehicles in Kuwait

BY JOHN MCCARTHY

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — At a time when some U.S. troops in Iraq are complaining they have to scrounge for equipment, six Ohio-based reservists were court-martialed for taking Army vehicles abandoned in Kuwait by other units so they could carry out their own unit's mission to Iraq.

The soldiers say they needed the vehi-

cles, and parts stripped from one, to deliver fuel to Iraq, but their former battalion commander said Sunday the troops should at least have returned the vehicles to their original units.

Members of the 656th Transportation Company based in Springfield, west of Columbus, said they needed the equipment to deliver fuel that was needed by U.S. forces in Iraq for everything from helicopters to tanks.

The reservists took two tractor-trailers and stripped parts from a five-ton truck that had been abandoned in Kuwait by other units that had already moved into Iraq, one of the reservists, Darrell Birt of Columbus, said Sunday.

Birt, a former chief warrant officer, and the others were charged with theft, destruction of Army property and conspiracy to cover up their crimes.

Birt said he and two others pleaded

guilty and the other three were convicted. All received six-month sentences.

"Nobody ever reported these trucks stolen. The deal was, when you are moving, if it was going to take more than 30 minutes to fix it, you left it," said Birt, who was released in November.

"I'm a Christian man and I can't ignore what we did, but it was justified to get us in the fight and to sustain the fight."

## Year after Saddam was captured, trial prospects uncertain

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In the year since he was captured and hustled away to a secret location, Saddam Hussein has taken up gardening, undergone a hernia operation and written poetry that one visitor describes as "rubbishy."

What he has not done is meet with any of the 20 lawyers claiming to represent him. And with the country in the grips of an insurgency, predicting when Iraq's most famous prisoner will be tried is no easier now than it was on the day he was pulled from his hiding spot in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

When Saddam first appeared before an Iraqi court in July, some officials predicted a swift trial. Ever since, they have said October, November or December. Now, they expect it no earlier than the beginning of 2006, Iraq's National Security Adviser Mowafak al-Rubaie said.

"This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right," al-Rubaie said. "We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

American officials with the Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office are advis-

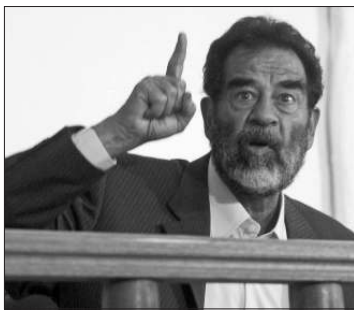
ing the Iraqi Special Tribunal on the process of bringing Saddam to trial. The Americans paid the tribunal's budget of \$75 million for 2004-2005. But with elections approaching Jan. 30, the Iraqi government is in flux and likely to stay that way for another year until a new constitution is drafted and another round of elections is held in December 2005.

Trainers also face a dearth of qualified Iraqi prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges. If proper attorneys are found, they assume a new kind of risk — threats from the guerrillas, believed to be mostly Sunni Muslims like Saddam, or others trying to stymie the trial.

Few Iraqi lawyers are willing to represent Saddam, while prosecutors face challenging him. The same goes for the judges overseeing the case, slowing its work.

"At various points in time they have had a number of judges who have since withdrawn," said Hania Mufi, a spokeswoman for New York-based Human Rights Watch who has followed the case. "So that's been a practical problem on the ground."

That fact has been sobering for the Americans, who predicted Saddam's capture would cripple the insurgency. They portrayed violence immediately after his capture as the last gasp of desperate loyalists.



In July, Saddam Hussein appeared in a courtroom at Camp Victory, at a former palace on the outskirts of Baghdad. In the year since Saddam was captured and hustled away to a secret location, officials say the work of gathering evidence, documents, mass grave sites, and testimony from victims, continues away from the public eye.

"Saddam's era is over," the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers, said days after Saddam was captured. "But it takes time for people to accept the changes."

Since then, the guerrillas have continued exacting a bloody toll against U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies.

The United States is increasing troop levels to 150,000, higher than they were when the war began, in hopes of providing safety for next month's elections.

Saddam first appeared before the court July 1, without a lawyer.

He was presented with seven preliminary charges that included gassing thousands of Kurds in

1988, the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the suppression of 1991 revolts by Kurds and Shiites, the murders of religious and political leaders and the mass displacement of Kurds in the 1980s.

Eleven other defendants were arraigned with him.

Eight of Saddam Hussein's 11 top lieutenants went on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand visits in jail from the International Committee of the Red Cross, but they were eating again by Monday, a U.S. military spokesman said. The former dictator had never joined the protest, the spokesman said.

Associated Press reporter Jamal Halaby in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

## Iraq leader knocks security decisions

The Associated Press

LONDON — Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawer said in an interview broadcast Monday that the U.S.-led coalition was wrong to dismantle the Iraqi security forces.

"Definitely dissolving the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior was a big mistake at that time," al-Yawer told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"We could have screened people out instead of screening them in and this could have saved us a lot of hassle and problems," he said. The BBC said it spoke to al-Yawer in London, where he was briefly stopping after a visit to the United States.

Critics of the U.S.-led invasion say the decision to disband the 400,000-strong Iraqi army and to purge the state of members of Saddam Hussein's Baath party has contributed to chaos and helped fuel insurgency in post-war Iraq.

Al-Yawer said the security situation wouldn't be resolved unless Iraq's own security forces were "100 percent efficient."

"As soon as we have efficient security forces that we can depend on we can see the beginning of the withdrawal of forces from our friends and partners and I think it doesn't take years, it will take months," he said.

## USAID director defends pace of Iraq reconstruction

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A top USAID official acknowledged Monday that Iraqis have reasons to be impatient with the pace of reconstruction since the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, but said \$4.3 billion has been earmarked for projects and promised improvement despite the insurgency.

Andrew Natios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, detailed several projects under way in Iraq, including construction of 13 water-treatment plants and a

major new power station, as well as hundreds of schools, firehouses, clinics and police stations.

But he insisted the most important work in Iraq isn't necessarily visible, including building institutions, getting civil society groups off the ground and doing preventive maintenance.

"The most important work we do is not the physical infrastructure, even though I know all of you like to report on it," Natios told a news conference inside the Green Zone, the highly fortified area home to the U.S. Embassy and other government offices in Baghdad.

But Natios, fielding pointed questions from Arabic-speaking journalists about reconstruction, defended more visible U.S. work, which some Iraqis say is taking far too long. He said it takes months to build power plants.

He spoke in the middle of a power outage that cut electricity to a large swath of the country. Baghdad went dark, though power in the Green Zone is supplied by generators and was not cut. "I know people are impatient," Natios said. "They have a reason to be impatient, but I think progress is being made and the money is being spent appropriately."

Iraq's infrastructure fell into near ruin under years of U.N. sanctions and was further crippled in the U.S.-led invasion and its aftermath. Iraq's insurgents have frequently targeted reconstruction projects, bombing schools, clinics and community centers sometimes days after they're built.

Natios said USAID had earmarked \$86 million to support Iraq's electoral commission and nongovernment organizations ahead of Jan. 30 elections. He said 9,000 Iraqi businesses have been registered, and 35,000 Iraqis were employed in construc-

tion work with contracts through his agency.

"There is an insurgency going on," Natios said. "However, Iraqis have met with us and determined to rebuild their country and establish the foundation for enduring democracy."

He also pointed to a "university linkages" program connecting five Iraqi universities with five in the United States and five in Europe, which he said was "one of the most important things we're doing."

Natios said that of the \$5.3 billion USAID has allocated, \$4.3 billion had been assigned to specific projects so far.

# Photos from the Front

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**TOP RIGHT** Sgt. Lisa Phillips of the 630th Transportation Company from Washington, Pa. stands watch as the sun goes down in Iraq.  
*Jack Gordon, U.S. Army*

**ABOVE** A soldier from Logistics Task Force 524 hooks up a pallet of ammunition to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for delivery to soldiers at Forward Operating Base Lwara, Afghanistan.  
*COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY*

**RIGHT** 1st Infantry Division soldiers celebrate Veterans Day with a 5 kilometer run around Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.  
*W. Wayne Mason, U.S. Army*



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## IN THE WORLD

# Israel to pull back from Palestinian towns for vote

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ

The Associated Press

HERZLIYA, Israel — Israel will withdraw its troops from Palestinian towns for 72 hours during next month's Palestinian presidential election, Israel's defense minister said Monday, signaling that a deadly weekend attack on an Israeli army post is not derailling fledgling peace efforts.

The defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, also said it is in Israel's interest to coordinate next year's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with the Palestinians — a marked departure from Israel's initial intention to act unilaterally.

The Islamic militant group Hamas and gunmen with ties to the ruling Fatah movement claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack on an army outpost on the Gaza-Egypt border. The militants detonated 1.5 tons of explosives, killing five sol-

diers and wounding five in what they dubbed "Operation Angry Volcano." Hamas said it had dug an 800-meter-long tunnel over four months to reach the outpost.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that the new Palestinian leadership is not doing enough to restrain militants.

"By now, we don't see any change," Sharon said of Palestinian efforts. The comments marked the first time since Yasser Arafat's death last month that Sharon criticized Arafat's moderate successor, Mahmoud Abbas, though he did not mention Abbas by name.

The outpost attack was seen as a challenge to Abbas, who has been trying to persuade militants to halt attacks on Israelis ahead of presidential elections Jan. 9. Abbas has criticized the armed Palestinian uprising and enjoys the support of the international community.



The father of Israeli army Sgt. Tarek Al-Zidaina, center, weeps Monday during his son's funeral in Rahat, Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that the new Palestinian leadership is not doing enough to restrain militants, such as the ones who killed Al-Zidaina and four other Israeli soldiers in an explosion Sunday.

## Chile's Pinochet indicted on kidnapping charges

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Gen. Augusto Pinochet was indicted Monday on charges in the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 regime, and the former dictator was placed under house arrest.

Judge Juan Guzman made the

announcement nearly three months after questioning the 89-year-old former ruler and having him examined by doctors to determine whether he can stand trial.

Guzman said he made the decision to try Pinochet after carefully reviewing an interview Pinochet gave to a Spanish lan-

guage television station in Miami. He said he is convinced Pinochet is healthy enough to stand trial.

The trial of Pinochet is part of the so-called "Operation Condor," a joint plan by the dictatorships that ruled several South American nations in the 1970s and '80s to suppress dissidence.

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# Ukraine reopens inquiry into poisoning



Yushchenko

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Lawmakers in Ukraine's parliament reopened their investigation Monday into opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's illness after doctors in Austria determined he had suffered dioxin poisoning.

The parliamentary commission decision followed a similar move by the country's prosecutor general on Sunday.

The commission will be led by Vol-

odymyr Sivkovych, a lawmaker who has supported Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, Yushchenko's opponent in the Dec. 26 rerun for the presidency.

"The results of the most recent expertise in Vienna are giving us grounds to renew our work," Sivkovych said. "However, we are not convinced that deliberate poisoning can be proved."

An earlier commission led by Sivkovych investigated the case in Octo-

ber and decided that Yushchenko had suffered a combination of a viral infection and several other diseases.

Sivkovych urged Yushchenko to immediately hand over results of the tests conducted by doctors in Austria to prosecutors and the parliamentary committee.

Yushchenko praised Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun on Sunday for reopening the criminal investigation into his illness, but said he hoped the investigation would be con-

ducted after the rerun because he didn't want the vote to be influenced "either positively or negatively" by the inquiry.

Lawmakers could still take up the timing of the inquiry and take into consideration Yushchenko's desire to stall the matter until after the elections.

A parliamentary decision is required before the commission actually begins to work.

## Zapatero: No gain from Madrid train bombings

By DANIEL WOOLLS

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spain's prime minister, heckled Monday by opposition lawmakers, angrily denied his Socialist party instigated anti-government rallies on the eve of a general election to reap political benefit from the Madrid train bombings.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also accused former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of misleading Spaniards by blaming Basque militants for the bombings, even after evidence of an Islamic link emerged and accumulated.

Thousands of demonstrators — spreading the word by cell phone text message — convened protest rallies outside then-ruling Popular Party offices in Madrid and other cities on March 13, two days after the bombings that killed 191 people. They accused Aznar's pro-U.S. government of making Spain a target for al-Qaida by endorsing the Iraq invasion — and the next day, the opposition Socialists won the election.

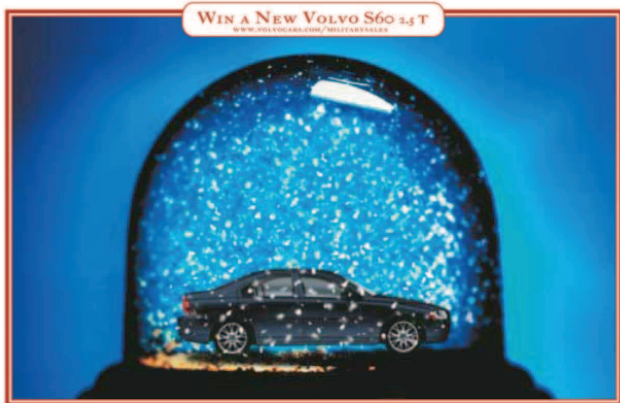
Under Spanish law, political rallies are banned the day before an election.

"We do not know about, plan, participate in, instigate or support the demonstrations on March 13," Zapatero said at a raucous session of a parliamentary commission probing the bombings.

Zapatero is the first sitting Spanish prime minister to testify before a parliamentary commission of inquiry, where he again condemned the war in Iraq, and said his predecessor had increased the risk of an Islamic terrorist attack here by supporting it.

The 16-member panel investigating the bombings began its work in July and has heard from more than 50 former police and government officials on how the government handled the attacks and what warnings it had that Spain might be a target for Muslim militants.

The commission is scheduled to conclude with testimony later this week from a representative of an association of March 11 victims, then write a final report.



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# EU nears 'yes,' details on Turkey membership talks

BY ROBERT WIELAARD  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union edged closer Monday to giving Turkey the green light on membership talks, but jitters over bringing the relatively poor Muslim nation into the fold prevented decision on a starting date.

The final decision is up to EU leaders meeting in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, after the EU foreign ministers failed

Monday to set a start date and duration for talks.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, whose country is skeptical of Turkey joining the bloc, said "negotiations will be long, open-ended and difficult" and stressed that membership was not yet a done deal.

Officials were drafting a summit declaration Monday to open the doors to Turkey.

The draft text, obtained by The Associated Press, hails Turkey for having made "de-

cisive progress" in economic and political reforms. Leaders also express confidence in Turkey's sustained reforms, "and vow to monitor Ankara's commitment to 'fundamental freedoms and to full respect of human rights, (especially) the zero-tolerance policy relating to torture and ill-treatment' of prisoners."

Of particular concern to the EU is that the Turkish parliament approve laws on criminal procedures and the judicial police.

Four other laws, including one enacting a

new penal code, have been adopted by the legislature, but must yet take legal effect.

The EU foreign ministers debated possible dates for talks to start, and conditions to attach to them to assuage fears in Western Europe of bringing Turkey into the bloc.

Opposition to Turkey's joining has come from Austria, Slovakia, Denmark and France.

France wants the talks to begin in late 2005 or 2006. If Turkey joins, its companies will face stiff and unrestricted competition from EU rivals.

## Romania's election

BUCHAREST, Romania — Reformist opposition candidate Traian Basescu won Romania's presidential runoff election Monday — a blow to the successors of the once-powerful communists who ruled for most of the period since the 1989 revolution.

His opponent, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, conceded defeat after results showed Basescu had won 51.23 percent of Sunday's vote, compared with Nastase's 48.77 percent. The results were based on 98.76 percent of the ballots counted.

In a victory speech, Basescu pledged to prepare Romania to join the European Union by 2007. He said he would strengthen ties with the United States and Britain to guarantee Romania's security, while also seeking good relations with Russia and other former Soviet states.

## IRA disarmament

DUBLIN, Ireland — Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams on Monday insisted the IRA would not allow photographs of its disarmament as the British and Irish governments tried to clear the way for a new Northern Ireland peace package.

"The photographs are dead and gone and buried," said Adams, emerging from Prime Minister Tony Blair's office in London. "I do not think there is any possibility of resurrecting that issue."

The Irish Republican Army said last week it was willing to scrap its remaining weapons stockpiles, but only if Britain, Ireland and the north's Protestant leaders dropped demands for the process to be photographed.

## Elephants enjoy tapioca

BANGKOK, Thailand — Wild elephants in Thailand stumbled upon a feast when they found a tapioca delivery truck with a flat tire, officials said Monday.

The driver, Somkuan Sirisat, said he had gone for help to repair the tire Sunday night — and when he returned, he found five or six elephants surrounding his truck and devouring its contents.

The elephants found their windfall in the Ta Takiab district of Chachoengsao province, 56 miles east of Bangkok.

The elephants left the scene after eating their fill.

From The Associated Press



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## IN THE STATES

## Rehnquist to skip voting in some cases

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has bowed out of voting in some of the Supreme Court cases he missed this fall while receiving treatment for thyroid cancer, a court spokeswoman said Monday.

Rehnquist, who has been absent from the bench for nearly two months, will not vote in cases that were heard in November, unless the remaining eight justices are deadlocked. He does plan to participate in the cases argued in December, Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said.

The announcement came after the Supreme Court released four opinions, two without Rehnquist's involvement. Monday was the Supreme Court's final work day before a nearly monthlong holiday break.

Rehnquist, 80, has been working from his home in suburban Virginia while undergoing treatment. While he has not heard any arguments since October, he is briefed on the cases and the expectation was he would vote in them.

With speculation swirling that Rehnquist at any time, court observers were caught by surprise Friday when Arberg said Rehnquist had accepted President Bush's invitation to administer the oath of office at the Jan. 20 inauguration. By tradition, the chief justice swears in the president, and Rehnquist has participated in every inauguration since becoming chief justice in 1986.

Some of the court's biggest cases so far this year were argued

in October, when Rehnquist was on the bench. Among them: a challenge to the use of the death penalty for juvenile killers and a case that put in jeopardy the longtime rules for sentencing federal criminals. Rulings in both of those cases will come sometime after the court returns in January.

A high-profile November case in which Rehnquist won't vote, unless he has to break a tie, deals with standards for on-the-job age discrimination lawsuits.

Rehnquist wrote a 6-3 decision on Monday in a case that was argued Oct. 4, the first day of the Supreme Court's nine-month term. The ruling sidestepped a decision on whether states can refuse to pay for appeals by indigent defendants who plead guilty to crimes. Rehnquist said that two Michigan attorneys who represent poor defendants did not have standing to challenge Michigan's law.

## Supreme Court rulings

## Death-penalty cases

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that a Florida death row inmate should not get a new trial even though his lawyer conceded the man's guilt without his consent. The high court also rejected an appeal from Texas death row inmate Troy Kunkle, allowing his execution to proceed, even though one justice declared that Kunkle's sentence clearly violated the Constitution.

In the Florida case, the Supreme Court voted 8-0 to set aside a Florida Supreme Court decision in favor of Joe Elton Nixon. He was convicted in the 1984 murder of a woman he met at a Tallahassee mall.

Florida prosecutors say Nixon tied Jeanne Bicker, a 38-year-old state worker, to trees with jumper cables and set her on fire.

## Pollution suits limited

The Supreme Court on Monday put restrictions on companies that want to voluntarily clean up their polluted land and sue former owners to share the costs.

The court ruled 7-2 against a company that in 1981 bought land in Texas that had been used for aircraft engine maintenance businesses and then went to court to recover some of the \$5 million it spent cleaning up pollution there.

From The Associated Press

## Bush names new Health secretary

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush chose Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Leavitt on Monday to be secretary of Health and Human Services, filling one of the last two openings in his second-term Cabinet.

Bush praised Leavitt as a "fine executive" and "a man of great compassion. ... He's an ideal choice to lead one of the largest departments of the United States government."

Leavitt, Utah's governor before joining the Bush administration in late 2003, would succeed Tommy Thompson, who recently resigned.

Bush also has to name a new head of the Homeland Security Department to take the place of Bernard Kerik, who abruptly withdrew his nomination Friday night, citing immigration problems with a family housekeeper.

During Monday's announcement, Leavitt, 53, thanked Bush for showing confidence in him. "I feel a real sense of understanding and respect" about leaving the EPA, he said.

He said the department of Health and Human Services plays a vital part in the lives of every American.

The HHS has a budget of more than \$500 billion and 67,000 employees.

## First family honors GIs at holiday taping

BY KATA KERTESZ

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Christmas trees decorated with red bows, gold ornaments and white lights lined the hall at the National Building Museum for a holiday pageant attended President Bush and his wife, Laura.

The president spoke of the many servicemen and women from home during the holiday season. "These families and the troops they love can be certain that they have the support and gratitude of our nation."

Bush made his brief remarks Sunday night at a taping of the 23rd annual "Christmas in Washington" concert, which benefits the Children's National Medical Center in the nation's capital.

"We continue to seek the promise of peace on earth and goodwill toward men," Bush said.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was also in attendance.

The concert, hosted by Dr. Phil McGraw and his wife, Robin, will be broadcast Dec. 15 on the TNT cable network. Performers included country singer LeAnn Rimes, "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard and pop singers Michael McDonald, Vanessa Williams, JoJo, the American Family Choir,



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush pose with elves, from left to right, Brook Allen and Marco and Milena Spencer Gallia, before the start of the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert on Sunday.

the U.S. Army Band Herald Trumpets, Ian Fraser and the "Christmas in Washington" orchestra.

## NASA's chief O'Keefe turns in resignation

WASHINGTON — Sean O'Keefe, who has spent three tumultuous years running the nation's space program, resigned Monday.

O'Keefe, 48, is a leading candidate to become the \$500,000-a-year chancellor of Louisiana State University's main campus in Baton Rouge. He will meet Thursday with a search committee seeking to fill the job, the panel's chairman, Joel S. Tishler, said Sunday.

Glenn Mahone, chief NASA spokesman, said O'Keefe submitted a resignation letter on Monday to President Bush, who accepted it.

O'Keefe's tenure as administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration included the loss of the shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts as well as budget battles and debates over the future of American space travel.

From The Associated Press

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## Bush 'chimp' portrait removed from exhibition

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A portrait of President Bush, made up of small pictures of chimpanzees, was removed from an art exhibition in Chelsea Market after the market's managers complained about it.

The painting by Christopher Savido appears to be the president from far away. But close up the tiny chimpanzee images can be seen clearly.

Bucky Turco, the show's organizer, said he had the work cleared for display with Irwin Cohen, a Chelsea Market director. But the management was still displeased with the picture.

"When we hung the show on Wednesday, we were asked to take down the Bush piece," Turco told The New York Times in Monday editions.

"I agreed but said I thought it makes a strong addition and I would re-hang it for the opening."

But when Turco did, and the exhibition was opened, the gallery crowd also included a disc jockey and an open bar, inviting a nightclub environment. A market manager then told Turco the show was over and called security to clear the event.

"I said, 'Let's walk and talk this over,' and when we passed Chris' painting, he flipped," said Turco. The manager threatened to have him arrested, seize the art and evict him from his office.

Although Turco wrote the management the next day, he was forced to remove the 60 artworks on Saturday.

Savido said that the rancor over the painting made him feel "powerless."

"I came to New York to express myself," said Savido, 23, of Pittsburgh. "I would never have expected this censorship to happen to me."

## Giuliani tells Bush he's sorry for Kerik nomination

WASHINGTON — Former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, at a preplanned dinner with President Bush, offered apologies for the abortive nomination of close associate Bernard Kerik as homeland security secretary, a Giuliani spokesman said.

Kerik, who was Giuliani's police commissioner and more recently a business associate, asked Bush to withdraw his nomination late Friday after questions about an immigration problem involving a family lawyer.

Giuliani spokeswoman Sunny Mindel said in New York that the White House dinner Sunday had been planned several weeks ago.

"The president was very gracious," she said. "They remain good friends of higher education."

Earlier Sunday, Bush and Giuliani attended the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert, to be televised on the TNT cable network Dec. 15.

From The Associated Press

## Golden Globes go 'Sideways'

### Road-trip film's seven nominations leads contenders

By DAVID GERMAN

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The road-trip flick "Sideways" led Golden Globe contenders Monday with seven nominations, including best musical or comedy film, three acting nominations and best director.

The Howard Hawks biography "The Aviator" was second with six nominations including best dramatic feature, two acting nominations and best director.

Other best drama nominees were the caustic sex tale "Closer," "Finding Neverland," the story of Peter Pan creator J.M. Barrie, "Hotel Rwanda," a tale set against the genocide in that country, "Kinsey," a film biography of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, and the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby."

Along with "Sideways," best musical or comedy nominees were the whimsical romance "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," the animated superhero adventure "The Incredibles," "The Phantom of the Opera," adapted from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, and the Ray Charles film biography "Ray."

"Ray" star Jamie Foxx was nominated for best musical or comedy actor for that film and received two other nominations: supporting actor for "Collateral" as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man, and as best actor in a TV movie or miniseries for "Redemption."

"The Aviator" star Leonardo Di-



Actor Brendan Fraser announces some of the nominations Monday for the 62nd Annual Golden Globes in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Caprio earned a nomination as best dramatic actor for his role as Hughes. Other nominees were Javier Bardem as a paralyzed man seeking the right to divorce "The Sea Inside," Don Cheadle as a hotel manager sheltering refugees in "Hotel Rwanda," Johnny Depp as playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland" and Liam Neeson as the title character in "Kinsey."

Dramatic lead actress nominees were Scarlett Johansson in "A Love Song for Bobby Long," playing a teen who finds an unlikely extended family; Nicole Kidman as a woman visited by a boy claiming to be her dead father in "Birth," Imelda Staunton as the title character in the abortion drama "Vera Drake," Hilary Swank as a boxer in "Million Dollar Baby," and Uma Thurman as a vengeful former assassin in "Kill Bill — Vol. 2."

Along with Foxe, "Sideways" star Paul Giamatti was nominated for best actor in a musical or comedy for his role as a loser in love on a road trip with a buddy.

Other nominees: Jim Carrey as a man who pays to have memories of his ex-girlfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," Kevin Kline as composer Cole Porter in "De-Lovely" and Kevin Spacey as singer Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea."

Musical or comedy actress nominees were Annette Bening as a London stage diva in "Being Julia," Ashley Judd as composer Porter's wife in "De-Lovely," Emmy Rossum as a musical stage ingenue in "The Phantom of the Opera," Kate Winslet as Carrey's ex-girlfriend in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and Renee Zellweger as the title character in the romantic sequel "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason."

Golden Globes are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a comparatively small group of about 90 reporters from overseas news organizations.

The Globes features 13 categories for film and 11 for television.

Unlike other major movie awards, the Globes have separate divisions for dramas and comedies or musicals in the best-picture and lead-acting categories.

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## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro \$1.3673

British pound \$1.7537

Japanese yen (Dec. 13) 102.20

South Korean won (Dec. 11) 1,034.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar) 0.37589

British pound \$1.7537

Canada (Dollar) 0.6441

Denmark (Krone) 6.46

Egypt (Pound) 1.25

Euro \$1.3673/0.7661

Hong Kong (Dollar) 0.774

Indonesia (Rupiah) 1,678

Iceland (Krona) 165.46

Israel (Sheqel) 1.488

Japan (Yen) 106.14

Kuwait (Dinar) 0.2662

Norway (Krone) 0.54

Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 1.359

Singapore (Dollar) 0.71

South Korea (Won) 102.20

Switzerland (Franc) 0.8552

Taiwan (Dollar) 1.488

Thailand (Baht) 0.0052

Turkey (Lira) 1.488

United Kingdom (Pound) 0.54

United States (Dollar) 1.00

United Arab Emirates (Dirham) 0.37

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## Quick Trips

# A Seville Christmas

Who needs snow? Spanish city offers a warm spirit

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

**D**reaming of a white Christmas?

Bah, humbug. Seville is proof that snow and cold weather are not required to get into the Christmas spirit.

From the smell of chestnuts roasting in the plazas to the dozens of nativity scenes on display, Christmas is everywhere in southern Spain's capital.

The city is considered Spain's cultural heart and it is the center of holiday activity in the Andalusia region. While many villages throughout the south have their own ways of celebrating the holiday season, few offer the list of activities Seville has from the first week of December until January.

Most of the holiday activities are in or near the center of the city, where the mammoth Gothic Cathedral stands. Thousands of white, red and green lights are strung around the streets and buildings.

The Day of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 is when the holiday season really begins. On the eve of the national holiday, college students dress up, come out into the streets surrounding the cathedral and play guitars and sing. The students, or *los tunas*, perform throughout the night.

The events are more subdued the following morning as children dressed in blue and gold costumes dance in the Cathedral. The dance of the *Los Seises* is a tradition that dates to the 15th century.

After mass, many people bring

flowers to a statue of the Virgin Mary at Plaza de Triunfo. On a recent Wednesday, families brought their children to the base of the statue and dropped off bouquets and posed for photographs. Some simply patted and quietly bowed their heads in prayer.

East of the statue, a short walk down Avenida de la Constitución, is the Feria del Belen, or the Nativity Fair. This Christmas market sells mostly nativity scenes and pieces crafted from artists in the province. They're all for sale for those who want to build their own scene for their home. Pieces can cost anywhere from a euro to several hundred euros for the biggest and most elaborate settings.

People who just want to look at the nativity displays can find them throughout the town in chapels and hidden in the city's twisted alleyways. Just follow the makeshift signs. They range from the magnificent to the amateur. Most are free but ask for donations.

The Christmas markets are better than what visitors will likely find in smaller villages across the region, but they fall short in the variety that is available at open-air holiday markets in places such as Germany, eastern France or Luxembourg.

But while Seville's Christmas markets might not be as plentiful as the ones in those areas, southern Spain is warmer this time of year.

If you don't need Jack Frost nipping at your nose to get in the spirit, then you probably won't mind.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauer@mail.strips.es.ord.mil](mailto:schonauer@mail.strips.es.ord.mil).



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Tourists and locals gather in Plaza del Triunfo in Seville, Spain, in the shadow of the Gothic Cathedral.



Visitors admire a nativity scene at Plaza de San Francisco in Seville.

## On the QT



### Directions

By car, Seville is about 75 miles from Rota. From Naval Station Rota, take CA-613 to A-491, then follow A-491 toward El Puerto de Santa Maria to N-1VA. Turn right at CA-201. Follow CA-201 through El Portal. Make a right at the roundabout onto A-381, and take A-381 to the autopista, A-4. (The turnpike charges 5 euros each way.) You'll take the autopista all the way to Seville. Follow the signs to the city center.



### Times

The Feria del Belen continues daily through Jan. 5, except for Christmas and New Year's Day. It runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5-8:30 p.m. weekdays and noon to 2 p.m. and 5-8:30 p.m. weekends. The Cathedral is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 2:30-6 p.m. Sundays and holidays 2:30-6 p.m. Most city monuments close on Mondays.



### Costs

Admission to the Cathedral is 7 euros. Parking is charged by the hour in several underground parking garages close to the center of town, and is recommended. Petty theft is a problem in Seville, and tourists' cars parked on the streets have been known to be victimized.



### Food

There are numerous restaurants and cafes in the center of town. The Santa Cruz area has some of the best restaurants. However, you can go from bar to bar and taste the different tapes, which are small portions of food such as shrimp, potato salad and calamari.



### Information

There are many Christmas events. Go to the Web at [www.sevilla.org](http://www.sevilla.org) for details.

— SCOTT SCHONAUER



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



## OPINION

## When holiday cheer meets harsh reality

BY KEVIN COWHERD

The Baltimore Sun

It's nice to see we're still being bombarded with the usual mixed messages this holiday season.

Where's your holiday spirit? everyone asks. Enjoy the season for once! Don't let the stress get to you! Then you turn on the 6 o'clock news and they're talking about dry Christmas trees torching the house and outdoor lights on overburdened extension cords electrocuting the family pet and hot new toys the kids could choke on.

Reach out to loved ones this holiday season! everyone says.

Then you pick up a newspaper and it's filled with headlines like: "How to sit down to dinner with people you can't stand" and "Surviving the holidays with your dysfunctional in-laws" and "Sure, you mother's a monster! But make the best of this Christmas!"

In the stores, crammed with stressed-out shoppers plunging into five-figure credit-card debt, the piped-in music assures: It's the most wonderful time of the year! But the morning talk shows are all about how to cope with depression, or seasonal affective disorder, or social anxiety triggered by the coming round of holiday partying, or a drinking problem.

"Good food with good friends — that's what the season's all about!" screams the cover of every glossy entertaining magazine you pick up. But now, according to news reports, undercooked turkeys and salmonella poisoning are wiping out entire families, cholesterol levels are higher than the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and we've turned into a nation of big fat pigs.

On one of the cable news networks the

other day, the anchor began a "To Your Health" segment with this: "Most people gain around seven pounds during the holiday season — did you know that?"

Did we know that? How could we not know that? We've been hearing about how fat we're getting for 20 years now.

When the nutritionists are finished with all their gloom-and-doom pronouncements, the fitness experts finish the job of bringing us down. Look, they say, celebrate all you want. But find a way to burn those calories, or you'll blow up like a blimp and eventually keel over and all the family and friends you left behind will hate you forever.

Go for a walk, they say. Hit the gym. But who can talk the gym when there's a two-inch layer of ice on the car windshield and the Weather Channel's calling for sleet and the Old Farmer's Almanac is calling for an end-of-the-world snowstorm? If I die in a snowstorm, I want to die in my own house, not in a spinning class surrounded by 16 sweaty people in red uniforms.

Here's another message you can't escape this time of year: Remember all the wonderful people you work with.

Great. Then you show up at work one morning and the overly chipper woman who sits in the next cubicle chirps: "Let's do an office Secret Santa this year! Oh, c'mon, it'll be fun!"

No, it won't. Let's face it: Is there anything that induces more stress during the holidays than Secret Santa? Pull a name out of a hat and buy a present for someone you barely know.

Who thought this was a terrific concept? Spend too little, and you look like a cheap-sleazebag. Spend too much, and it looks like you're showing off.



Even if you get the monetary amount right, you might end up giving a gift that offends a colleague. For instance, perhaps you remember that the person you're giving a gift to is a big dog lover. So you go out and buy a nice, I don't know, dog collar with little jingle bells or something. On the big day in which all the Secret Santas are revealed, that person opens your gift and stares uncomprehendingly at it for several seconds.

Then she blurts: "My Rexie died last week," and flees the room in tears.

Well, thank you very much. You just made the work environment a lot more pleasant.

Oh, well. At least there can be no arguing with the most venerable of all seasonal messages: Christmas is all about the kids.

This is why you show up an hour early at your child's school for her holiday recital... So you stake out your position 10 feet from the stage — elbows wide, feet planted, shoulders thrust back like an NBA center boxing out the other team's big man.

You wave at your child and smile and hold the camcorder steady for 90 minutes as you feed the first twinges of carpal tunnel syndrome in your wrists. Unless that's the holiday spirit you're feeling. Sometimes it's hard to tell one from the other.

## No kidding: Blue States wait, Red States procreate

For a country in which the Red States control the politics, the popular culture sure seems Blue. And not a cool blue. Instead, it's a hot and sexy blue — call it Viagra blue. And yet

for all the sex that everyone seems to be enjoying, not many children are being born.

Let's start with some recent movies. The sequel to "Bridget Jones's Diary" begins with the title character exulting that she has begun with her current boyfriend for "six weeks, four days, seven hours and 71 ecstatic phases."

Speaking of the quantification of carnality: "Kinsey," the story of the famous erotic researcher, declares, as its tagline, "Let's talk about sex."

In addition, two films starring Jude Law, "Alfie" and "Closer," feature single, childless uddies in a roundelay of sexual couplings.

And for readers, the new sex-seller is Tom Wolfe's "I Am Charlotte Simmons," the ultimate dirty-old-man book.

OK, those are movies and books, and most adults don't go to movies or read books. But they all watch TV, where the new queens of the home entertainment system are "Desperate Housewives," and the most important males on that show are boy-toys. And yet older fellas are not forgotten on the tube; one might get the impression, from watching commercials, that the U.S. economy is sustained by sales of Viagra, as well as Levitra and Cialis.

Interestingly, when these aphrodisiacs

are pitched to would-be "wild things," no reference is made to anything so old-fashioned as a husband or wife. Instead, the spots are completely neutral, legally and sexually, as they urge "partners" to get it on. And soon, no doubt, there will be a patch for women who wish to patch up their sex lives.

It's a free country, of course. Indeed, in terms of sex, it's getting freer. But can that sexual freedom last if the exponents of lifestyle liberation don't reproduce themselves? The nation's birthrate has decreased by half since the peak of the baby boom. The big ethnic families that once had six kids might now have three. But in places where the Sex Boom is still peaking, "families," such as they are, are typically childless. And in terms of future politics, three outvotes zero.

In past societies, rampant sexuality led to sterility, as a result of venereal disease. In

our time, promiscuous sex has survived both herpes and AIDS, and yet for millions, fertility has not survived promiscuous sexuality. Many of the most educated and affluent are, in effect, voluntarily sterile. Their bodies might have remained virus-free, but their values have changed permanently.

The idea that some would channel their sexual energy into pursuits other than procreation has frequently been associated with homosexuality. That is, gays and lesbians presumably have more energy, as it were, to throw into art, literature, or education. From royal salons to avant-garde garrets to abbeys and rectories, those with no reproductive outlet sublimated their passions into painting, writing or teaching.

But now, in a sense, everyone — straight as well as gay — is an artist. A performance artist, that is, with his or her own sexuality.

As any reader of Cosmopolitan magazine quickly learns, some women are avidly "keeping score," just like Bridget. And since none want the game to end just because of age, the market for sex aids, from pills to plastic surgery, will never end.

Except that it might end, as the children of the children-oriented fill up the vacuum left by the childless. To be sure, some kids born into even the reddest states turn out to be "blue" spontaneously, becoming Midnight Cowboys. But if demographic destiny keeps grinding on, blue-state bohemians are destined to shrink. And so the red states will grow larger, culturally as well as politically.

So the randy, Bridget-y culture of the early 21st century will perhaps yield to a new way of life — in which a greater emphasis on fertility, as opposed to just sexuality, becomes the new primal value.

James Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

James Pinkerton



## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-VIDEO)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley "Gonzi" Siewers	Movie *** "Monday After the Hurricane" (1996, Drama)	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	College Basketball Wake Forest at Temple. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30 Sagan-Siemens Cat	Movie *** "The Hurricane" (1996, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Army Newswatch		Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00 Arthur Kirby Judy-Judy	Pomni Downey, Molly Kelly	(3:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPN	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Best for Less	ESPN
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)	(4:56) Movie *** "Days of Thunder" (1990, Drama)	(4:56) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Shipped	Headline News
11:00 Sagan-Siemens Cat	Thunder (1990, Drama) Tom Cruise, Robert Downey Jr. "Challenger" enters the world of stock-car racing.	(1:17) General Hospital	NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Tennessee Titans. From the Coliseum in Nashville, Tenn.	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E News	NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Tennessee Titans. From the Coliseum in Nashville, Tenn.
11:30 Stanley	The Wiggles	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Chicago Bulls. From the United Center in Chicago. (Taped)	That '70s Show	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "Guarding Tess" (1994, Sports) MacLaine, An embolic Secret Service man sends a former lady friend.	Today Jim Carrey, Kate Blanchett; Countdown to Christmas	ESPN	Fox and Friends		Girlfriends	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles	Barney & Friends (E)	Jeopardy!	ESPN Report	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Aly McBeal "The Last Virgin"	ESPN
13:00 Bob the Builder	(2:50) Movie *** "Crimson Tide" (1995, Suspense) Denzel Washington, Gene Hackman, George Dzundza	Spy	The Tonight Show	American Morning		Any Day Now "Peace of Mind"	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	The Entertainers	Animanics	Late Show	OWN Live Today	NFL's Greatest Game	ER "Tell Me Where It Hurts"	Late Show
14:00 Blue's Clues "Environments"	Behind the Scenes	Braceface "Mami Vics"	Headline News		ER "Tell Me Where It Hurts"	Headline News	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Entertainment Tonight	Teen Kids News (E)	Headline News		Law & Order "Fright"	Headline News	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	The Entertainers	Headline News	The Late Late Show	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
15:30 Funniest Home Videos	Behind the Scenes	ESPN News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
16:00 Pokemon	Rugrats "Graham Canyon"	AFN Evening News	Smallville "Dexter"	FOX News	NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Tennessee Titans. From the Coliseum in Nashville, Tenn.	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
16:30 Go-Go! "Double Duty"	The Amanda Show	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Lucky Strike"	The Hot List	Headline News
17:00 Kashi! Real Monsters	Everwood "Snow Job"	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
17:30 Rocket Power	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Lucky Strike"	The Hot List	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
18:30 Rugrats "Graham Canyon"	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
19:00 The Amanda Show	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
20:00 Everwood "Snow Job"	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
20:30 Sister, Sister	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
21:00 Sister, Sister	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
22:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
22:30 Home Improvement	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
23:00 Touched by an Angel "The Cowboy"	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann
23:30 Touched by an Angel "The Cowboy"	Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Comedy) Rachel McAdams, Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Paradise on the Beach	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Countdown With Keith Obermann

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

0:00 Kashi! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie *** "Beverly Hills Cop" (1984, Drama)	11:30 Late Show	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
0:30 Rocket Power	NBC News (E)	0:30 NBC Nightly News	Women's College Basketball	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News			Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	(12:54) Movie *** "The Graduate" (1967, Comedy) Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, Katharine Ross.	1:00 Headline News	Headline News	Blue's Clues "Prank Jobs"	ABC World News Tonight	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:30 Rugrats	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Wheel of Fortune	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 The Proud Family	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Dr. Phil
2:30 The Amanda Show	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Coimes	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Oprah Winfrey
3:00 Everwood "Snow Job"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	NBC Nightly News
3:30 Sister, Sister	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Judge Judy
4:00 Sister, Sister	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Law Debbs Tonight	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Access Hollywood
5:00 Sesame Street (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
5:30 Barney & Friends "Go to Sleep"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
6:00 Blue's Clues (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
7:30 Bob the Builder	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
8:00 The Wiggles "Wiggle Opera"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
9:00 Dora the Explorer	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
9:30 Sagan-Siemens Cat	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
11:00 Sagan-Siemens Cat	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
11:30 Stanley	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer "The Beach"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
12:30 The Wiggles	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
13:00 Bob the Builder "Tommy's Court"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
14:00 Blue's Clues "Environments"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
15:30 Full House	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
16:00 Pokemon	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
16:30 Go-Go! "The Rescue"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
17:00 Kashi! Real Monsters	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
17:30 Rocket Power	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
19:00 Even Stevens	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
19:30 Kenan & Kel	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
20:00 Gilmore Girls "The Road Trip to Harvard"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
21:00 Degrees: Next	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
21:30 Degrees: Next	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show "The Visit"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Sandcastles"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News
23:30 Touched by an Angel "Sandcastles"	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	College Football Wyndham New Orleans Bowl - North Texas vs. Southern Mississippi. From New Orleans. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise Archer loses his short-term memory.	Headline News

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## FACES



Released Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal of Tears for Fears to perform in New York's Rockefeller Center on Sept. 25, as part of NBC's "Today" show. The band is best known for its 1980s hits "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

# Shouting match

Years after bitter split, Tears for Fears duo find a "Happy Ending" together

BY ROSS RAIHALA  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Curt Smith knew he was ready to leave Tears for Fears back in 1989, as the duo was finishing its third album, "The Seeds of Love."

"I made the decision before I started the tour," Smith said during a phone interview from his home in Los Angeles. "I left at the end of it. It was no fun anymore; it had become a tedious experience."

Fifteen years later, Smith has reunited with Tears for Fears co-founder Roland Orzabal for a new record — appropriately titled "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending" — and tour.

And for Smith, Tears for Fears is fun again. "Oh, phew, it's night and day, really," he said. "Making this record was an enjoyable process from start to finish, which is unheard of for us."

When Smith and Orzabal formed the group in the early '80s, they were drawn together by a mutual admiration for Arthur Janov's primal scream therapy. Their gloomy first album, 1983's "The Hurting," was a hit in their native England, despite the depressive nature of the lyrics reflected in song titles such as "Watch Me Bleed," "Suffer the Children" and "Mad World."

But by 1985's "Songs From the Big Chair," Smith and Orzabal had lightened up, sort of, and found a worldwide audience on the strength of the now-classic singles "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

The newfound fame and fortune turned the sessions for "The Seeds of Love" into a grueling marathon that lasted more than two years. "I thought the production was great," said

Smith. "And there are a couple standout tracks. But there's also a lot of filler material and self-indulgent nonsense."

After Smith departed the group, Orzabal kept recording under the Tears for Fears moniker throughout the '90s, to diminishing commercial returns. The duo's only communication was through lawyers.

But in 1999, the pair made over dinner. "It wasn't because we were thinking of making a record; we just realized [not talking] was just silly," Smith said. "We had such a long history together, we started out just working on our friendship."

Over the next few years, the pair continued to talk, and eventually the conversation turned to music. They had already started recording together when a cover

*"We just realized [not talking] was just silly."*

Curt Smith

version of the duo's "Mad World," performed by singer/songwriter Gary Lucas, became a surprise hit in 2003 after featuring prominently in the cult film "Donnie Darko."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the duo's comeback album picks up, sonically, where "The Seeds of Love" left off. It's a grand, sweeping record full of Beatles-esque turns and jazzy flourishes.

"There are definitely some ties between them," Smith said. "I think this is what 'The Seeds of Love' should have been. I think it's actually better."

As for the future, is Tears for Fears' new album title, "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending," an epitaph? Smith said the pair have tour plans through the summer and have continued to write new music.

"You know, we have a good working relationship now," Smith said.

"But whenever we've made plans in the past, we've never stuck to them. Who knows what will happen, but we're enjoying it now."

## Wyclef Jean launches Haiti effort

Wyclef Jean has launched a nonpolitical humanitarian effort to help rebuild his native Haiti.

Yele Haiti seeks to use music and community development as an outreach to the Caribbean country's youth. The organization plans to help rebuild schools in slum areas and hold a free concert in Haiti in the spring.

Jean launched Yele Haiti with a concert Thursday night. Among those on the arrivals line were Susan Sarandon, a member of a task force that is assisting the former Fugees rapper, and her partner, Tim Robbins.

"The objective of Yele Haiti is to restore pride and a reason to hope, and for the whole country to regain the deep spirit and strength that is part of our heritage," Jean says on the Yele Haiti Web site.

Jean's 1997 solo hit, "We Trying to Stay Alive," re-worked the Bee Gees disco classic into an anthem of Haitian slums.

## Pepper: Earnhardt role had to be true

While portraying baseball great Roger Maris, actor Barry Pepper learned the importance of capturing the character. Anything short of authentic doesn't sit very well with fans.

So when it came to portraying Dale Earnhardt, perhaps the most revered man in NASCAR history, Pepper knew

he had his work cut out for him.

"[Earnhardt] is an American legend, and that is always thin ice," Pepper said. "And the similarities between Earnhardt and Maris... they had extraordinary fan bases."

You knew you were dealing with a very fervent opinion of who the man was, so if you strayed too far from that or didn't do your homework, you were going to hear about it."

Pepper, nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of Maris in the TV movie "61," plays Earnhardt from ages 16 to 49 in the ESPN biopic "3," directed by Russell Mulcahy.

When he arrived in North Carolina, where filming took place in the Charlotte area and Earnhardt's hometown of Kannapolis, fans made it clear they wanted Pepper to get it right.

The movie doesn't show the 2001 crash that killed Earnhardt on the final lap of the Daytona 500 — Pepper said it would have been inappropriate. And the film was made



Barry Pepper as NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt

without the cooperation of Earnhardt's widow, Teresa, who had early discussions with the network but didn't reach an agreement.

## Poker players go for beauty

Pamela Anderson wins with a full house.

In an online survey conducted by EmpirePoker.com, 42 percent of the Web site's VIPs selected model-actress Anderson as the celebrity they would most like to play against.

"Our players clearly think Pamela Anderson isn't too bright or maybe they just want to oggle her," said Ron Burke, EmpirePoker.com's marketing manager.

Dennis Rodman was a distant second with 24 percent. James Woods shuffled 13 percent. Dave Navarro was picked by 10 percent, skateboarder Tony Hawk and Matt Damon each drew 3 percent. Donald Trump was selected by 2 percent and 1 percent said Ben Affleck.

Hank Azaria, Michael Ian Black, Ron Artest, Clay Aiken and Teri Hatcher also picked up votes.

When asked which celebrity would be most likely to cheat at poker, 37 percent of those surveyed chose Affleck.

Stories and photos from wire services



Anderson

## Missing bells found

**WA** SEATTLE—A handbell hobbyist in Texas helped crack the case of the stolen church chimes, leading police to a trio of young men suspected of pawnning about \$20,000 worth of the gleaming bronze instruments.

Six of eight cases of Schulerich handbells and Malmark hand chimes stolen from Alderwood Community Church in Lynnwood, Wash., were sold by mail shipments through eBay to buyers as far away as Pennsylvania for a combined \$4,129.

A 21-year-old Everett, Wash., man—a former church member—was arrested, and police expect to arrest other suspects.

The church didn't discover its collection of nearly 100 bells and chimes was missing until Labor Day weekend because its bell choir took a summer hiatus.

## Reporter claims assault

**NC** BURLINGTON—A developer was charged with threatening and assaulting a newspaper reporter who wrote a story about a proposed private club in Burlington.

James Moffat, a reporter for the Times-News of Burlington, said Ernie Koury Jr., 50, confronted him before a meeting of the Burlington City Council. Koury allegedly grabbed Moffat by the throat and shirt collar, shook him and threatened to kill him if he wrote another article about the club like one Moffat had written earlier.

The story, written in November, quoted a planning and zoning commissioner who questioned what kind of business the club would be. Koury's attorney accused the commissioner that "nothing illegal" would take place.

Koury was charged with communicating threats and simple assault. The newspaper asked Moffat to file the charges.

## High-tech licenses

**MN** ST. PAUL—Minnesota has begun issuing a first-of-its-kind driver's license designed to thwart counterfeiters—an issue that has taken on greater urgency since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The licenses have a security feature in which a reflective image appears to float above and below the card when the license is tilted. The licenses will have a distinctively Minnesota flavor: The floating images will be of loons, an enduring symbol of the state.

Minnesota is the first state to use the technology, developed by Maplewood-based IM Co. The technology has been around about a year and has only been used on Australian passports.

## Surprise landing

**TX** FABENS—A small plane that had lost power briefly landed atop an 18-wheeler before crashing onto the highway, authorities said. The two people aboard the plane came out unscathed, and the truck driver never heard a thing.

"Nothing happened to the truck, except for a couple of small marks up top," said Trooper Licia Lina, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The single-engine plane carry-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ing an El Paso couple fell off the trailer and landed upside down on Interstate 10 during the emergency landing 19 miles east of El Paso, Torres said.

FAA investigators were reviewing the incident.

## Driving teacher fired

**NH** CONCORD—An uncertified high school driving instructor previously convicted of drunken driving was arrested after his vehicle ran off the road as he was headed to teach a driving class, officials said.

Arthur Desmeules, 66, faces several charges stemming from the Nov. 22 incident, including drunken driving. The Nashua School District fired him last week.

He had taught driving to students in the district for 35 years.

## Not a hate crime

**FL** CLEARWATER—A white man accused of draping a noose around the shoulders of a black teenager was convicted of misdemeanor battery. The jury declined to return a felony verdict that would have labeled the offense a hate crime.

Circuit Judge Tim Peters, however, surprised the courtroom by sending Louis J. Giannola IV, 20, to jail pending his Jan. 10 sentencing. He had been free on bond, and a misdemeanor usually carries



## Look out below

**Mike Bishop rappels from the top of the McLennan County Courthouse in Waco, Texas, while changing some of the 1,200 bulbs that line the exterior.**

only probation for a defendant with no prior record.

Giannola was accused of draping a noose around the neck of Dionte Hall, 15, in January at a Wendy's restaurant in Largo, west of Tampa. He claimed he did so because another youngster, whose father is black, bet him \$10 he wouldn't do it.

## High salaries

**CA** OAKLAND—More than 800 people who work for the financially strapped city of Oakland made at least \$100,000 in the last fiscal year, according to records released following a court order obtained by a newspaper.

The total represents about 18 percent of the city's work force of about 4,500 from July 2003 through July 2004. About three-quarters of the employees were in the police and fire departments.

Oakland is facing a projected deficit of more than \$45 million over the next two years that threatens basic city services. The deficit is partly due to pay raises and improved benefits approved during the economic boom of the 1990s.

About two-thirds of the top earners had salaries set under \$100,000, but earned more due to extras, such as overtime. One police officer made \$177,311 during the period, although his base salary was \$73,188, according to the records.

## Prescription savings

**ME** PORTLAND—A program that encourages city employees to enter prescription drugs from Canada is saving the city and its workers tens of thousands of dollars, city officials said. Savings through the Portland Meds program are on track to top \$100,000 during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The program was launched last July.

## Deer-vehicle crashes up

**IN** FORT WAYNE—More than 14,000 deer-vehicle crashes were reported in the state last year, and the frequency of the crashes is increasing, says the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Deer researcher Lance McNew says there were 20 percent more crashes last year than in 2000.

## Crowded cemeteries

**VT** QUEBECHEE—When Lawrence Hudson Jr. dies, he expects to be buried in the plot his great-grandmother bought 80 years ago, near where his father, Lawrence Hudson Sr., was buried in June.

It helps that Hudson is following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps around the Hilltop Cemetery, caring for the same plots tended by the two previous Hudsons who served as sexton.

There's space for him in the family plot, Hudson said.

Others might not be as fortunate. Quebec's is among a number of cemeteries in Vermont and New Hampshire that have run out of room to grow.

The cost of adding land to existing cemeteries has risen greatly, just as year-round population growth and the desire of some vacation home owners to be buried in the hills have increased demand.



## Balloons that glow

Balloonists from the Southwest Smith Park.



**Something is missing ...** Nick Harberts of Worthington wins a heat race with his 2005 Arctic Cat Frecat during Winterfest in Luverne, Minn. From snowmobiling on alfalfa to strapping on cross-country skis with wheels, Minnesotans are finding ways of coping with a frustrating lack of snow.



## Ride 'em Santa

Santa is lifted onto an old B-47 at the former Pittsburgh (N.Y.) Air Force Base by workers from the Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corp. Santa has ridden the bomber for 30 years.



tern Ohio Competition Club light the night sky during the annual Christmas Balloon Glow in Middletown, Ohio's



A cow moose gets a snout full of snow

Got something on your nose while feeding in a field near West Yellowstone, Mont.



Swoosh!

Kane Lasky, of Boise, Idaho, skis down to the base of Bogus Basin Ski Resort's Deer Point lift on the first day of skiing at the resort outside of Boise.



Let there be light

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on the start of Hanukkah.

Rabbi Yacov Borenstein, left, and local businessman Stephen Aronson light a torch on the menorah at the intersection of Main and Skating streets in

## Man convicted of murder

**NE** GERING — A man who abducted, assaulted and killed a 15-year-old newspaper carrier in western Nebraska was convicted of first-degree murder.

Jeffrey Hessler, 26, was found guilty in the February 2003 death of Heather Guerrero, who was kidnapped blocks from her home. Her body was found the next day by two family members at an abandoned house about 12 miles away.

The prosecutor, Doug Warner, said a neighbor's report of hearing a scream and seconds later a speeding car were proof Guerrero was "surprised, overpowered and taken against her will."

Defense lawyer Jim Mowbray said Hessler "didn't mean for it to happen" and had not planned to kill Guerrero. Mowbray maintained that Hessler should have been charged with second-degree murder.

## Steer escapes death

**WI** CALEDONIA — After four days on the lam, a wayward steer that had been spotted on front yards and near a golf course found its way back to its own barn and avoided a possible death penalty.

Police had standing orders to shoot the 700-pound animal because of the danger it could pose if it strayed into traffic on nearby State Highway 38.

Kelly Welter and her children joined the search with her 17-year-old nephew, who owns the animal and plans to show it at the Racine County Fair next year, after the steer broke through an electric fence and a stock gate.

## Suspicious fires continue

**DC** WASHINGTON — A serial arsonist who authorities believe started more than 40 fires struck again, investigators said.

The latest fire, which broke out at 5 a.m. on the exterior of a house in Northeast Washington, is the 46th case in the region to come under the jurisdiction of the Arson Task Force.

"Investigators are pretty confident that this is part of our serial arsonists," said Kelly Long, task force spokeswoman and agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Long said investigators believe the latest fire is linked to the others based on general characteristics.

## Decorations troubling

**AZ** SCOTTSDALE — The boo birds said Chris Birkett's Halloween display was too scary, and now he's in trouble with the law.

Birkett, who has hosted holiday displays at his home, was charged with disorderly conduct following an Oct. 30 police report over his Halloween display, police said.

Birkett's neighbor told police she has small children who were frightened and couldn't sleep because of the ghostly sounds.

Officers attested that they could hear the noise from the neighbor's home and submitted their report to prosecutors, police spokesman Sam Bailey said.

Another neighbor called police recently about Birkett's winter display. That neighbor complained about the noise from crews working to put up the display and traffic

and debris left by sightseers.

Police said Birkett faces a \$2,500 fine and six months in jail if convicted of disorderly conduct.

## Landlord convicted

**NY** NEW YORK — A landlord was found guilty of hiring hit men to force two brothers of a rent-controlled apartment last year.

Juan Basagotia, 50, was accused of paying two tenants in the building \$2,500 to beat the brothers and attack them with a knife in March. He allegedly wanted to oust the victims from their three-bedroom, \$400-a-month apartment in the Elmhurst section of New York's Queens borough so he could raise the rent to \$1,500.

The brothers, William and David Lavery, suffered disfiguring injuries in the attack but survived.

Basagotia could face up to life in prison when sentenced in January. His lawyer, Stewart Orden, said his client hired the attackers to scare the brothers, not to hurt them, and that the plan spiraled out of control.

## Hospital wristband safety

**FL** TAMPA — A hospital chain is taping over patients' LiveStrong wristbands because they are yellow — the same color as the "do not resuscitate" bands it puts on patients who do not want to be saved if their heart stops.

No mix-ups have been reported, but BayCare Health Systems officials do not want to take any chances.

The popular LiveStrong rubber bracelets are sold through the Lance Armstrong Foundation as part of the champion bicycle racer's efforts to raise money for cancer research.

## Gun applications down

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Not as many Missourians as expected have applied to carry a concealed gun. Officials had expected as many as 60,000 applications in the first year, but county sheriffs have requested only 13,748 background checks through November. The permits became available in March.

## Graffiti gets political

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who has thumbed his nose at the establishment before, let a graffiti artist spray paint his City Hall office walls with the bright orange message: "SMASH THE STATE."

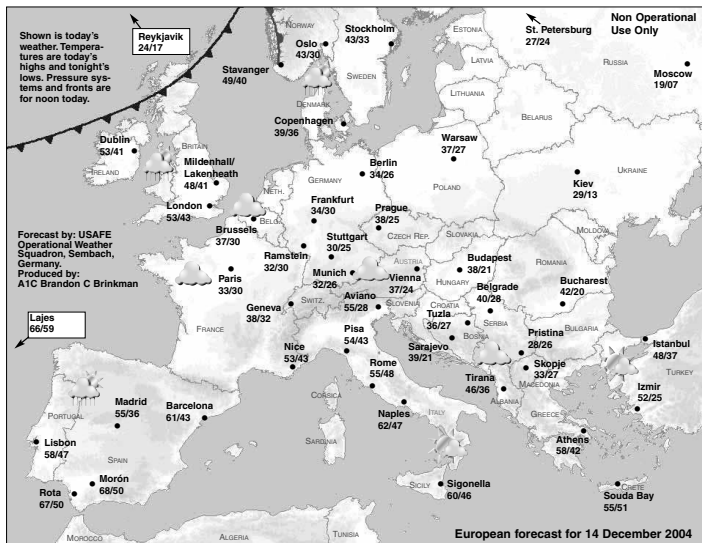
There is irony. There is art appreciation. There are raised eyebrows.

Gonzalez, who has hosted monthly art installations in his office by unknown and known artists for the last four years, ordered up this graffiti for one of his last exhibits before he exits City Hall on Jan. 8. Gonzalez did not seek re-election.

The timing and placement of the artwork are interesting, seeing how City Hall is a registered historical landmark, and you need approval just to hang a bulletin board — and seeing how Mayor Gavin Newsom, Gonzalez's rival in the mayor's race last year, has been issuing strict edicts about the city's and public's responsibility to clean up graffiti vandalism.

Stories and photos from wire services





KEY: Sun, Pt. Cls, Mostly cly, Cloudy, Showers, Tstorms, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold frnt, Warm frnt, Trough, Occluded fr, Stally frnt, L, H

## AFRICA

Cape Town	75	61	Mogadishu	89	76
Dakar	81	70	Nairobi	79	58
Freeport	88	74	Rabat	67	48
Khartoum	88	72	Tripoli	71	48

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	44	40	Manila	88	79
Bahran	72	57	Mexico City	72	45
Beijing	52	28	Montreal	31	20
Bombay	86	72	Norfolk	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35
Buenos Aires	58	45	Osaka	50	35

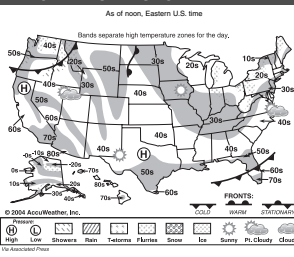
## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23
Albany, N.Y.	50	38	City	28	23	City	28	23	City	28	23

Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
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Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20
Hamburg	35	25	City	25	20	City	25	20	City	25	20

Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25
Nashville	32	16	Or	49	25	City	49	25	City	49	25

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 40s, Wednesdays in the low 30s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid to upper 30s, Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 40s to low 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to low 40s.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 30s, Wednesday lows in the upper 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the low 30s to mid 30s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s to low 30s.

**Hungary:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s, Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to low 40s.

**Southern Italy:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

**Kosovo:** Cloudy with fog. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 40s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the lower to upper 40s, Wednesday lows in the low 30s to low 40s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s to upper 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to low 50s.

**Turkey:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and today forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN &amp; MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:58am	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:17am	8:18am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:57pm	4:57pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:24pm	4:24pm

New moon 26 Dec, First qtr 18 Dec, Full moon 29 Dec, Last qtr 03 Jan

Scheduled to **E.T.** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

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Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

Looking around, you could easily get the impression that you're living in a cartoon world where rhymes hardly feel out of place and people seem more like Dr. Seuss characters than flesh-and-blood humans. The moon enters friendly Aquarius, infusing us with eccentric creativity and the need to share it. Find your inner wackiness.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 14).** Your strong will creates success and happiness this year. You're able to knock down the barrier erected between you and what you want. Surround yourself with mentors and friends, especially wise ones, as you enter the new year. Creative partners turn into love partners in February, and love partners work together creatively. You, too. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 45, 23, 19 and 31.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're not striving to merely get ahead of the ball; you want to sink it in the goal and win the whole game! Don't be surprised if everyone around you is thinking much smaller. Give yourself and your colleagues a pep talk.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's not fair. While some try hard to capture the attention of an uncaring world, you simply show up, and everyone responds. To claim you've got charisma would be an understatement. You're electro-luminous-ent!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Others are so friendly and helpful, you'll wonder if they're up to something. No, you're just easy to be nice to. Continue to tip big and bring your winning personality to all you encounter. A new love is among your admiring public.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** When you dare to speak up, you surprise yourself! More than another opinion from the peanut gallery, you're a self-styled revolutionary force. So express in the moment. Don't let your ideas swim in the sea of afterthoughts.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll feel like the parent, especially when

people who are supposed to be your superiors act like Angst-ridden, misunderstood teens. When they finally ask for your input, you provide an earnest stream of useful feedback.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're centered, but your team is a mess. It falls on you to pull everyone together, or the group could polarize just when unity is what's required. Reiterate the bottom line, and stress the goal you all have in common.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Clear up misunderstandings so you can build a more solid support system.

You're given an uncensored forum to air your grievances, but that doesn't mean you should lose your signature diplomacy. Being nice is still effective.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The only difference between lettuce and garbage is timing. Your own fine timing could land you a piece of the action in a business venture, a killer deal on a big-ticket item, or a date for Saturday night.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're determined to be proactive instead of reactive. Be sure to reinforce that to the quantum computer that lives in your brain. Giving yourself simple tasks to accomplish is your key to success.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It feels like your life is in the blender. While you're handling the blur around you, you don't have time to put up with anyone's antics. Draw boundaries, or your risk is inundated with the relationship equivalent of useless junk.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It looks like things are going your way, so back off, and trust the process. Otherwise, your expectations could get so high that your nervous system doesn't know how to react. As the teens say, "Be more chill."

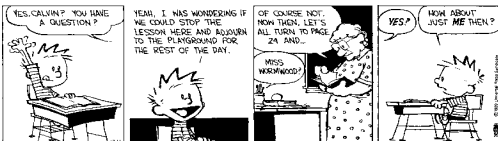
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Once again, you're floating in a sea of emotions, but this time, it's in more of a yacht than a lifeboat. It's your reward for investing your feelings in a situation that actually deserves your passionate contribution.

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## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



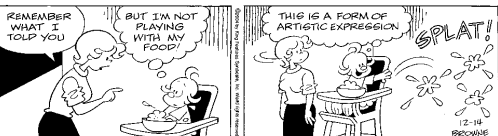
## Zits



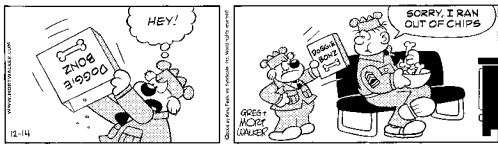
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



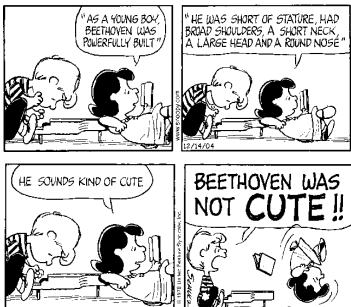
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



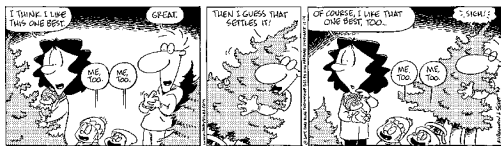
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



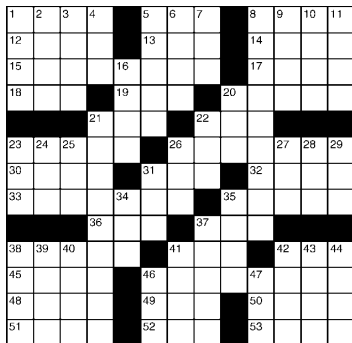
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Cry like a banshee
- 5 "Do — favor"
- 8 Took off
- 12 Wile E.'s supplier
- 13 Listening device
- 14 Matador's foe
- 15 Hickory variety
- 17 Family member
- 18 Nerd-pack occupant
- 19 B&B
- 20 Correspond
- 21 Adipose tissue
- 22 "Song of the South" song start
- 23 Buckets
- 26 Harlemque genre
- 30 Met melody
- 31 Overly
- 32 Stationer's unit
- 33 Evaluated
- 35 Excited states
- 36 Pack quantity
- 37 Whatever number
- 38 Large amounts
- 41 Ostri's kin
- 42 Poke
- 45 Notion
- 46 Acceleration contest
- 48 Complaint
- 49 Ph. bk. info
- 50 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 51 Get of image
- 52 Stubbom one
- 53 Bankrolls

## Down

- 1 Hornet's cousin
- 2 Rue the run
- 3 Somalian supermodel
- 4 "The Amazing Race" episode
- 5 Intended
- 6 Have coming
- 7 Deluge refuge
- 8 Pre-wedding blowout
- 9 Decant
- 10 Sea filer
- 11 Love not wisely but too well
- 16 Prejudice
- 20 Pick a target
- 21 Arizona city
- 22 Menagerie
- 23 Mamhandle
- 24 Exist
- 25 Midafternoon, on a sundial
- 26 Staff
- 27 Born
- 28 Cornfield comment
- 29 Type squares
- 31 John Ritter's dad
- 34 Possessive pronoun
- 35 All warm and cozy
- 37 Get together
- 38 BBQ entree
- 39 Syllables after 22-Across
- 40 Sense
- 41 Aphrodite's kid
- 42 Hurt hit
- 43 Alkali neutralizer
- 44 Hotel accommodations
- 46 Modern-day evidence
- 47 Squabble

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-14

## CRYPTOQUIP

DASV U JFGPSWIUOL AUR  
XKVKRASC DBWL, CB NBF  
WSOLBV AS GKHAZ SVIBN

U PKZ BX JUHSW?  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: YOU SAID THAT YOU INVENTED BALLOONS, BUT I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU'RE FULL OF HOT AIR.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals N

# In-laws' extended stay no picnic

**Dear Abby:** My husband, "Jay's," parents have informed us they are coming for Christmas and will be staying for six weeks. They need at least three weeks because they're having dental work done by another family member, and it must be staggered.

Long visits are acceptable in their culture, but it usually applies when people visit from another country — not another state.

The last time they came they stayed three weeks. It was a stretch for me, but I bit my tongue. I work from home and was with them 24/7 because they don't like to drive. It's hard on me because they get bored and expect me to entertain them. Also, I don't get along well with my father-in-law, and neither of them likes my cooking.

Jay knows six weeks is long, but for him the time goes fast because he works long hours. Jay says he'll talk to his parents

about this, but he's miserable at the prospect.

— **Dreading Christmas in California**

**Dear Dreading:** Be a gracious hostess for three weeks. After that, schedule a break. Go visit relatives or, if that's not feasible, check into a motel. You may find that having had a breather, you'll be in a better frame of mind to deal with the in-laws upon your return.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** I am 22, and recently moved here from a different state. Shortly after I arrived, I met an amazing man I'll call Lance. Lance and I met at work and fell for each other instantly.

After we had been dating only a month, I found out that I was pregnant with my ex-boyfriend's baby. Lance was confused when I told him, but after a few days of thinking about it, he told me that the pregnancy didn't change the

way he felt about me. We have now been dating more than two months, and Lance continues to be wonderful and supportive.

I'm afraid that since I'm starting to show, Lance will get scared and break my heart. We have had a few serious talks because I feel he doesn't spend enough time with me. Lance contends that he spends more time with me than he does his friends or family. Is this rational, or am I overly emotional because of my pregnancy?

— **Confused in Colorado**

**Dear Confused:** You could be hormonal — or simply extremely needy because you are vulnerable right now. Lance appears to be standing by you to the best of his ability — and now is not the time to be telling him he isn't measuring up to your standards of companionship. He deserves praise for his loyalty, not criticism for not giving "enough."

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69460, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**DULGI**

**CUMIS**

**TACTIN**

**NITMAR**

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[www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

A: THE

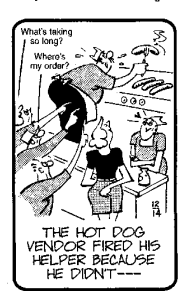
Yesterday's

Jumbles: PYLON BANAL FAMILY SYMBOL

Answer: What the shepherd discovered when he counted his flock — A LAMB ON THE LAM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Teen with cutting problem needs help

**Dear Annie:** I'm 14, and I think I am suffering from bipolar disorder — high manic episodes quickly followed by full-blown depression, where I often cut myself to avoid committing suicide or hurting others.

The problem is, I'm not really sure if I have manic depression or if it's just teenage hormones going wild. I would love to receive a proper diagnosis, but I don't know how to approach my parents and ask to see a psychiatrist or somebody. I'm afraid they'll just push it aside and tell me there's nothing to worry about.

Is there any way I can get them to take me seriously? And if they don't, could I see someone without parental consent? I would really like to get some help because the way I feel really sucks.

— **Kurt Cobain's Would-Be Starler**

**Dear Friend:** What you describe doesn't sound like typical teenage angst. Please talk to your parents, and if you think

**Annie's Mailbox**



they won't listen, talk to a favorite relative, family friend or your school counselor. You also can contact the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 730 N. Franklin St., Suite 501, Chicago, IL 60610, 1-800-826-3632 ([www.dbsalliance.org](http://www.dbsalliance.org)). Keep us posted, honey. We're worried about you.

**Dear Annie:** I am a social worker who works primarily with the elderly and the disabled in their homes. I have seen my clients receive pieces of official-looking mail, with a Washington, D.C., address and what looks like a government seal, offering to assist people with their government benefits, Social Security, Medicare, or the new Medicare prescription drug program. At the end of the letter, it asks them to complete a form and mail a check.

Please warn your readers that these letters are junk mail dis-

guised as official information and are worthless. Official assistance and information on government benefits do not have any fees associated with them. All of these services can be provided free of charge by local senior centers or advocacy groups such as The Center for Healthcare Rights ([healthcarerights.org](http://healthcarerights.org)).

I see so many seniors treating this mail seriously, assuming they must respond or miss out on a needed program. People should take these letters to someone they trust before they are cheated out of thousands of dollars.

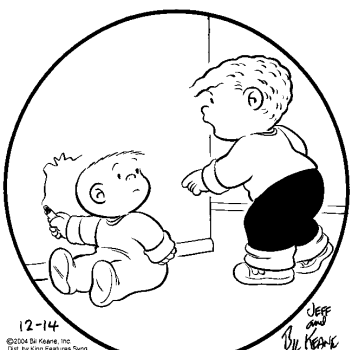
— **Social Worker in Los Angeles**

**Dear Social Worker:** Thank you for alerting our readers that official-looking mail asking for money is often a scam. Please, folks, do not send money to any organization without first checking it out.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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## Family Circus



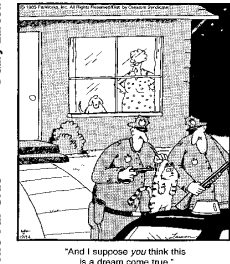
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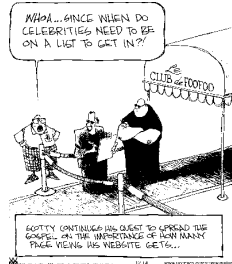
**Dennis the Menace**



**The Far Side**



**Non Sequitur**



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# SCOREBOARD

## AFN® & Radio

### Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.** — Bowling: PBA Earl Anthony Medford Classic (dtd).

**AFN-Sports and AFN-Radio, 11 a.m.** — NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee.

**AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.** — NFL: Orlando at Philadelphia.

**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.** — College basketball: Wake Forest at Temple (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.** — NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, noon** — NBA: Dallas at Chicago (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.** — Motorcycle racing: AMA Supercross, 200 (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Kansas City at Tennessee.

### Wednesday

**AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.** — College basketball: LSU women at Minnesota.

**AFN-Sports and AFN-Radio, 1:30 a.m.** — College football: New Orleans Bowl, 2004 (dtd).

**AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.** — College basketball: Wake Forest at Duke (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.** — NFL: NFL's greatest games, 1987 AFC championship game at Cincinnati.

**AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.** — Pro basketball: L.A. Lakers at Seattle (dtd).

All times Central European time; dtd indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afnradio.net](http://www.afnradio.net) for more information.

## College basketball

### AP Men's Top 25 rated

1. Illinois (9-0) beat Chicago State 78-59; beat Georgetown 74-59; beat Oregon 63-49.

2. Kansas (6-0) beat Texas Christian 69-54; beat Louisiana-Lafayette 96-51.

3. Georgia Tech (6-0) beat Iowa State 64-42; beat Virginia 69-46.

4. Syracuse (8-0) beat No. 5 Oklahoma State 74-60; beat Birmingham 85-65.

5. Oklahoma State (7-0) beat No. 4 Syracuse 80-60; beat Alabama-Birmingham 86-73.

6. Wake Forest (6-1) did not play.

7. Connecticut (4-1) beat Loyola of Chicago 109-81.

8. Kentucky (6-0) beat Morehead State 79-60; beat Indiana 84-71.

9. North Carolina (7-1) beat Northeast of Chicago 109-81.

10. Duke (6-0) beat Toledo 82-54.

11. Kentucky (6-0) beat Morehead State 79-60; beat Indiana 84-71.

12. North Carolina (7-1) beat Loyola of Chicago 109-81.

13. Louisville (5-1) beat Florida 74-70.

14. Texas (2-1) beat North Texas 86-57.

15. Arizona (5-2) beat Utah 67-62.

16. Washington (7-1) beat San Jose State 96-69; beat Maryland 100-83.

17. Alabama (8-1) beat Alabama State 76-73; beat Iowa State 76-63.

18. Alabama (8-1) beat Alabama State 76-73; beat Iowa State 76-63.

19. Virginia (7-2) lost to Iowa State 81-79; beat Furman 79-69.

20. Michigan State (5-2) beat Stanford 76-53.

21. George Washington (6-1) beat St. Francis, Pa. 79-65.

22. Mississippi State (7-2) beat Arkansas-Little Rock 83-53.

23. Maryland (5-2) beat North Carolina 86-57.

24. Wisconsin (5-2) beat Wisconsin-Green Bay 86-50; lost to Marquette 62-54.

25. Georgia (7-1) beat Washington State 84-69; beat Saint Louis 84-69.

### Sunday's men's scores

#### EAST

Greene-Mellon 88, Wayne N.Y. 69

Green Mountain 79, Colgate 64

Fairleigh Dickinson 82, Wagner 73

St. Joseph's 81, Monmouth 67

Skidmore 76, Centenary & Jefferson 61

Yeshiva 69, Wesleyan & N.Y. 67

Bellarmine 90, Quincy 83

Christopher Newport 69, Randolph-Macon 66

Central Carolina 96, Oakes 50

Duke 82, Toledo 54

Emory & Henry 65, Averett 68

FIA International 65, Florida 60

Florida Southern 74, Nova Southeastern 67

Florida 69, Rhodes 48

Ill-Chicago 76, N.C.-Wilmington 67

Marquette 85, N.C.-Asheville 72

Miami 80, Massachusetts 62

North Carolina 199, Loyola of Chicago 60

UNC 79, Hamilton 64

South Alabama 77, Ark.-Monticello 62

W. Michigan 69, Col. of Charleston 56

#### MIDWEST

Bemidji 51, Upper Iowa 53

Iowa State 92, Howard 75

Minn.-Duluth 69, Southwest St., Minn. 66

Missouri Valley 65, Columbia, Mo. 54

NW Missouri St. 59, Chicago 57

Nebraska-Kearney 95, CSU-Pueblo 73

Nebraska 75, Druy 69

#### SOUTHWEST

TCU 65, SMU 51

Texas-San Antonio 79, Louisiana Tech 71

Texas Tech 67, Prairie View 64

UTEP 69, Panhandle 51

UTEP 69, Panhandle 51

Arizona 51, N.C. Riverside 59

Cal Poly-SLO 58, Santa Clara 89

New Mexico 77, Ark.-Pine Bluff 53

W. New Mexico 79, St. Edward's 60  
Washington 100, Loyola Marymount 93  
Bard College Raptor Classic  
Newbury 67, Bard 62

### AP Women's Top 25 rated

#### Dec. 6-12

1. LSU (6-0) did not play.

2. Stanford (7-0) beat Pepperdine 85-49;

3. Duke (9-1) beat Liberty 83-48.

4. Texas (4-2) did not play.

5. North Carolina (3-1) beat Coastal Carolina 94-52.

6. (7-1) beat Penn State 81-70.

7. Notre Dame (9-1) beat Dayton 65-39;

8. Connecticut (4-1) beat Hartford 55-39;

9. Tennessee (5-2) beat No. 15 South 78-63.

10. Ohio State (8-1) beat Nebraska 86-61.

11. Illinois (7-2) lost to Arizona State 67-51; beat Augusta State 93-47; beat No. 24 Arizona 70-62.

12. Texas Tech (5-2) beat Eastern Illinois 85-45; beat Detroit 73-64.

13. Texas Tech (5-2) beat Miami 109-49; beat Oral Roberts 79-46; beat Mississippi 86-38.

14. Vanderbilt (7-1) lost to Western Kentucky 87-77; beat Saint Louis 94-53.

15. DePaul (6-0) beat Loyola of Chicago 99-54; lost to No. 21 Purdue 69-61; lost to No. 2 Tennessee 69-61.

16. Minnesota (8-1) beat Wisconsin-Green Bay 82-60; beat North Carolina 82-60.

17. Boston College (7-1) beat Fordham 82-60; beat Boston College 82-60.

18. UCLA (6-1) beat Fresno State 92-76.

19. Maryland (5-1) beat St. Bonaventure 91-42; beat Monmouth 114-81.

20. Fresno State (5-1) beat Oregon 68-45.

21. Purdue (6-2) beat No. 15 DePaul 69-61; beat Western Michigan 82-60.

22. Houston (8-0) did not play.

23. DePaul (6-2) beat Oklahoma 81-45; lost to Utah 87-72.

24. Indiana (6-2) lost to No. 11 Georgia 70-62.

25. Kansas State (5-2) beat Missouri-Kansas City 69-53.

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27. Kansas State (5-2) beat Missouri-Kansas City 69-53.

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**TOURNAMENT**  
**Alumni Association Classic**  
**Championship**  
Fairmont 23, Louisville 56  
**Third Place**  
West Chester 60, Mass.-Lowell 51

### College football

#### Bowl glance

**Tuesday, Dec. 14**  
**Orange Bowl**  
Payout: \$750,000  
North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Mississippi (6-5)

**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
**Champs Sports Bowl**  
Payout: \$800,000  
At Orlando, Fla.  
Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5)

**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
**CMAC Bowl**  
Payout: \$750,000  
Fridley, Minn. (9-3) vs. Bowling Green (9-3)

**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
**Ford Worth Texas Bowl**  
Payout: \$750,000  
Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Arizona (6-5)

**Las Vegas Bowl**  
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# Hodgers GM says reports of trade for Hudson 'overblown'

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Tim Hudson might not be Los Angeles-bound after all.

Hodgers' General Manager Paul DePodesta and his Oakland counterpart, Billy Beane, have talked extensively about Hudson at baseball's winter meetings.

But DePodesta denied a report that a deal was close to being completed.

"It has been overblown," DePodesta said late Sunday. "At times, it has been reported it was done. That was never the case. We continue to still talk with them."

"My understanding is they're still dealing with a lot of teams. They're exploring their options. They're not ready to do something yet."

Beane said the A's are "closer



Hudson

to a trade," but added he wouldn't say there's anything imminent.

"I don't think anyone who or what you think it is," Beane said.

"I don't think a real big deal is going to happen and you can decipher what you think is a big deal."

The 29-year-old Hudson, 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA last season, recently set a March 1 deadline for the A's to offer him a contract extension or he'll leave as a free agent following next season.

DePodesta said he and Beane know each other so well that they can get something done quickly if

it comes to that.

"We haven't even gotten to the point where we've made an offer," DePodesta said. "We've talked about specific players. We're on the same wave length in terms of players. I don't think there's much mystery on either side."

There shouldn't be, because the two are close friends and DePodesta was Beane's assistant in Oakland before taking the Dodgers' job last February.

"I don't think this is going to drag on indefinitely," DePodesta said. "I don't see it dragging on for two weeks. It's crazy how these things can go. Anything can come up."

DePodesta said published reports naming right-hander Edwin Jackson and infielder Antonio Perez in connection with a possible Hudson trade "aren't entirely accurate."

# 3B Koskie signs with Toronto on slow Sunday at winter meetings

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — On a quiet day at the winter meetings, the only deal with a free agent was a preliminary agreement between third baseman Corey Koskie and the Toronto Blue Jays on a \$17 million, three-year contract.

There was just one trade, when the Blue Jays sending catcher Kevin Cash to Tampa Bay for right-hander Chad Gaudin.

A Seattle executive told an agent that the Mariners thought they were close to agreement on a three-year contract with Richie Sexson, who also was negotiating with Baltimore. An official of another team that had sought the first baseman said the deal being discussed averaged about \$11 million.

With the meetings wrapping up Monday, teams appeared more concerned about setting up the groundwork for future deals than actually finalizing swaps and contracts.

Carlos Beltrán's agent discussed the All-Star center fielder with the Yankees, who also met with the agent for Pedro Martinez.

While New York manager Brian Cashman said he hadn't made an offer to Beltrán, he refused to say whether he offered a contract to Martinez — the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

Oakland discussed trading Tim Hudson to Los Angeles, Boston and St. Louis both went after shortstop Edgar Renteria, Tampa Bay talked with Jose Gonzalez and Anaheim attempted to reel in pitcher Matt Clement.

"There's really no movement forward but none backward since

## Free agent roundup

yesterday," Angels General Manager Bill Stoneman said, describing his team's situation in words that could be applied to the whole industry.

Since the meetings opened Friday, just three trades and three signings have been announced. Arizona reached a preliminary agreement Sunday on a one-year deal with shortstop Royce Clayton worth about \$1.3 million, and Cleveland moved close to a one-year agreement with second baseman Jose Hernandez.

It's not like the old days, when Jack McKeon and Roland Hemond set up shop ready to wheel and deal. In the age of e-mail, cell phones, complex guarantee language, physics and insurance, what used to be done with a handshake now needs lawyers and doctors to chime in.

Even when teams do make deals, they don't announce them until each clause in the letter of agreement has been approved and the last X-ray perused.

"I remember when I first started going to winter meetings, there were a lot more trades made, especially in the lobby of the hotel," New York Mets General Manager Omar Minaya said. "It's just a different day and age."

After meeting with agent Scott Boras, Cashman thought it would take a while to work out a deal for Beltrán, likely to get the largest contract of the winter.

"We're barely out of the starting blocks on this," Cashman said.

The key date in the Beltrán talks might be Jan. 8 — the last

day he can re-sign with the Houston Astros.

"That's one of the considerations," Boras said.

Minaya has been trying to sign Martinez and another starter, perhaps Odalis Perez, and also a first baseman.

"We're still in dialogue. The fact that we're in dialogue means that we're still alive," he said of Martinez. "It gets to the point where you need some type of answer."

Boston General Manager Theo Epstein wouldn't give direct answers to questions about specific players.

"It's been another very busy day," he said. "There are a lot of hurdles left to climb, but there are a lot of good opportunities out there."

Anaheim appeared confident of adding pitching.

"We're going to get something done," Stoneman said. "We just don't have it done. You have to be patient. When all's said and done, we'll help ourselves in the 'pen. When all's said and done, we'll help ourselves in the rotation."

Koskie's deal is subject to an agreement on contract language and the infielder passing a physical, a baseball official familiar with the negotiations said on condition of anonymity.

The 31-year-old Canadian hit .251 with 25 homers and 71 RBIs last season for the Minnesota Twins. He batted .276 with 26 homers and 103 RBIs in 2003, but his games decreased from 153 that year to 140 the following season, 131 in 2003 and 118 this year.

In Toronto, Koskie will take over at third base from Eric Hinske, the 2002 All-Rookie of the Year. Toronto either will move Hinske to first base or trade him.

# Woods meets Challenge after disappointing year

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods didn't say anything new about his game.

He said it was great to see the changes in his swing start coming together. He said he no longer had a long checklist of swing thoughts when he stood over the ball.

He said he was close. Only now, Woods has some trophies to prove it.

With perhaps the most complete round of his season, Woods missed only one green and two fairways Sunday to close with a 66 and win the inaugural World Challenge by two shots over Padraig Harrington.

"Every shot I wanted to hit, I hit," Woods said.

He played the final 32 holes at Sherwood Country Club without a bogey and finished at 16-under 66, earning \$1.25 million that he donated to his foundation.

For guys who couldn't do much right this year — no PGA Tour stroke-play wins for the first time in his career, no majors for the second straight season — Woods can't seem to do anything wrong heading into the short off-season.

It was his second straight stroke-play title, both after the PGA Tour season ended.

Late last month, he won the Dunlop Phoenix on the Japanese



Tiger Woods, right, hugs his father Earl after winning the Target World Challenge on Sunday in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

tour by going wire-to-wire for an eight-shot victory. On Sunday, he quickly erased a two-shot deficit to Colin Montgomerie, pulled ahead of Harrington with a bold drive and perfect pitch, then held off the Irishman by not missing a shot.

He must be excited for the 2005 season to get here.

"I am," Woods said. "After the Tour Championship, and going into it, it was exciting that the things I had been working on started to come together. It's nice not to have a big laundry list out there. I have a key thought here and there and hit a golf shot."

# Bryant accuses Malone of making pass at his wife

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Another Kobe conflict for the Lakers.

Bryant has accused Karl Malone of making a pass at his wife at a game last month.

Talking before Los Angeles' 105-98 victory over Orlando on Monday night, Bryant said he felt betrayed by a man he considered a friend.

"He was like a mentor, like a brother to me, so when something like that happens, you're upset, you're hurt," Bryant said.

He said he called Malone and told him, "Stay away from my wife. What's wrong with you? How could you?"

Malone was not available for comment Sunday, but agent Dwight Manley said Malone told him he had never made a pass at Bryant's wife, that he was surprised by the accusation, and that he was apologized to by Bryant and his wife for any remarks she might have considered inappropriate.

Karl's response to Kobe's comment yesterday is that he's a basketball player and not a soap opera actor and he doesn't intend to be involved in a personal soap opera," Manley said of his client.

Asked if there might have been a misunderstanding, Bryant said, "What he said is what he said. I believe in my heart that it wasn't a misunderstanding."

## Sports briefs

### Indiana captures another NCAA men's soccer title

CARSON, Calif. — Jay Nolly saved two penalty kicks and Indiana won its second straight NCAA Men's College Cup title Sunday, beating UC Santa Barbara 3-2 in a penalty kick shootout.

The teams were tied 1-1 after regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the shootout.

The second-seeded Hoosiers won for the 10th time in 11 games and earned their seventh NCAA title, the first under coach Mike Freitag, who replaced Jerry Yeagge this season.

### World Cup win No. 10 for Miller

SESTRIERE, Italy — World Cup leader Bode Miller won a slalom Monday to join Marc Girardelli as the only men to win races in all four disciplines in a season.

The American won for the sixth time in 10 World Cup races by finishing two runs down the 2006 Olympic course in a combined 1 minute, 36.2 seconds.

Silvan Zurbriegen of Switzerland was next, 1.27 seconds behind. Kalle Palander of Finland was third, 1.41 seconds back. Miller has won slalom, giant slalom, super-G and downhill races in a span of just 16 days.





# Weis will coach Irish ... and Patriots

## Willingham heads back to Pac-10; Stanford hires Pitt coach Harris

The Associated Press

Charlie Weis landed Tyrone Willingham's old job at Notre Dame.

Walt Harris was tapped to take over at Stanford, where Willingham led the Cardinal in 2000 when Gary Crowton resigned.

Meanwhile, Willingham himself was hired by Washington on Sunday as three high-profile head coaching positions were filled and another came open.

Brigham Young was also set to announce a new coach Monday, with The Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret Morning News reporting that defensive coordinator Bronco Mendenhall was expected to get the job that opened when Gary Crowton resigned.

Weis said his job as Notre Dame's coach is to raise expectations and win games.

"That's the bottom line in this business," he said Monday at a news conference. "Graduating kids is the first and foremost thing ... Bringing in character kids is important. But it's all about winning games. That's why there's a coaching change."

Weis, the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, graduated from Notre Dame in 1978, but never played football for the Irish.

He agreed to a six-year deal that will pay him a reported \$2 million annually. His hiring ended an awkward two weeks for the Fighting Irish that began with the firing of Willingham.

Willingham's three-year tenure was the shortest of any full-time Notre Dame coach in 70 years. He had three years left on his initial contract, but was let go after going 6-5. Notre Dame had made a tradition of allowing its coaches to at least work through the length of their first contract.

Last week, outgoing Notre Dame president the Rev. Edward Malloy criticized Willingham's firing and expressed concern over a growing trend of schools that are searching for "messiah coaches."

Notre Dame took more hits when its first choice to replace Willingham, Utah coach Keith Meyer, took an offer from Florida. That sent the Irish searching and eventually looking to Weis, a longtime NFL assistant who has never been a head coach.

The 48-year-old Weis arrived at the school Sunday night, just hours after the Patriots beat Cincinnati in Foxboro, Mass. Within an hour, he met with the players.



Former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham will return to the Pac-10 as Washington's third head coach in four seasons. He previously coached at Stanford.

"As I told the team, one of the problems is because expectations were not met," Weis said Monday. "You are what you are. And right now that's a 6-5 football team, and that's just not good enough. It's not good enough for me. If you think they hired me to go 500, you've got the wrong guy."

He will stay with New England through the NFL playoffs, juggling both jobs.

Not long before Weis' arrival in South Bend, Ind., Washington announced that it was bringing Willingham back to the Pac-10.

The Huskies, who play the Irish on Sept. 24 in Seattle, are coming off a school-worst 1-10 season and still trying to recover from a messy divorce with former coach Rick Neuheisel before the 2003 season.

Keith Gilbertson replaced Neuheisel, who was fired for gambling on NCAA basketball, but couldn't keep Washington from sinking to the bottom of the Pac-10. Gilbertson stepped down after the season. The Huskies made initial contact with Willingham while he was still employed by Notre Dame, and when he was fired he became a prime candidate.

"I am excited about being here," Willingham said.



Charlie Weis leaves the Joyce Center on Sunday ahead of Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White. Weis signed a six-year contract to coach the Fighting Irish, but will continue to serve as the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator throughout the NFL playoffs.

Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame — but after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15. Before going to Notre Dame, Willingham coached Stanford from 1985-2001. He went 44-36-1 with the Cardinal.

Harris will try to get them back after three unsuccessful seasons under Buddy Teevens, who replaced Willingham in 2003.

Stanford was looking for a coach with a strong offensive background after the Cardinal struggled to score during Teevens' tenure.

The Cardinal went 4-7 the past two seasons, losing their last five games this year.

Harris was Ohio State's quarterbacks coach in 1995-96 before going to Pitt. He has led the Panthers to three straight seasons with eight or more wins.

But he also has ties to the Bay Area. He grew up in South San Francisco and attended college at Pacific in Stockton.

Stanford athletic director Ted Leland also hired Harris to coach Pacific in 1989.

Harris's eighth season with Pittsburgh has been one of his most successful. The Panthers started 2-2 and there was talk that Harris, in the last year of his contract, would be replaced at season's end.

But the Panthers won six of their final seven to earn their first spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Harris and AD Jeff Long met last week but couldn't agree on a contract extension, so the coach resigned Sunday.

Pitt plays Utah in the Fiesta Bowl in Jan. 1, and Harris is expected to coach the team.

## Four Trojans named first-team AP All-America

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart and three of his Southern California teammates made The Associated Press All-America team announced Monday.

Tailback Reggie Bush, defensive lineman Shaun Cody and linebacker Matt Grothee joined their quarterback on the first team, Bush, a Heisman finalist, was picked as the all-purpose player.

Leinart has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns this season, leading the top-ranked Trojans (12-0) to a perfect regular season and becoming USC's sixth Heisman trophy winner.

Oklahoma tailback Adrian

Peterson, the Heisman runner-up who has run for 1,843 yards and 15 TDs, is the first freshman AP All-American since North Carolina cornerback Dre' Bly in 1996.

Peterson was joined on the first team by Sooners tackle Jammal Brown.

They'll line up against Leinart and USC in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

Oklahoma quarterback Jason White, a first-team All-American and the Heisman Trophy winner last season, was a third-team selection Monday. Utah quarterback Alex Smith was the second-team QB.

USC also had a third-teamer in defensive tackle Mike Patterson for a total of five players on the three AP All-America teams, tying Oklahoma for the most. The second-

ranked Sooners (12-0) also put wide receiver Mark Clayton on the second team and defensive end Dan Cody on the third team.

Michigan matched USC for the most first-team All-Americans with four: wide receiver Braylon Edwards, center David Baas and defensive backs Marlin Jackson and Ernest Shazor.

"Whenever you have the best defensive back in the country on your team and you get to go against him every day, it only gets you better," Edwards said.

Jackson and Edwards were among 20 seniors on the first team, and two of those who decided to delay an NFL career and return to college for their final seasons.

"It was exceptionally fun," said Edwards, who caught 87 passes

for 1,221 yards. "I believe this whole season has definitely paid off for me."

Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson and Florida State tackle Alex Barron both returned to school after being All-Americans last season and ended up repeating.

Georgia defensive end David Pollack, LSU defensive end Marcus Spears, Miami cornerback Antrell Rolle and Auburn cornerback Carlos Rogers all considered bypassing their final years of eligibility and went on to become All-Americans.

California running back J.J. Arrington, second in the nation in rushing at 167.7 yards per game, and Purdue wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield, who caught 82 passes, 1,014 yards and 15 touchdowns, made the AP first team.

Virginia and Ohio State joined Oklahoma as teams with two first-team All-Americans. Guard Elton Brown and tight end Heath Miller made it from the Cavaliers, and linebacker A.J. Hawk and kicker Mike Nugent were picked from the Buckeyes.

Tennessee's Michael Munoz made the first team, outdoing his dad. Anthony Munoz was never an AP All-American when he was a star offensive lineman for USC from 1976-79.

Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James and Michigan State punter Brandon Fields completed the first team.

The Big Ten had the most first-teamers with nine. The Pac-10 had five, followed by the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference with four each. The Big 12 had three.



# It's tighter than expected, but Eagles win

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Tights game? No. Tight game? Yes.

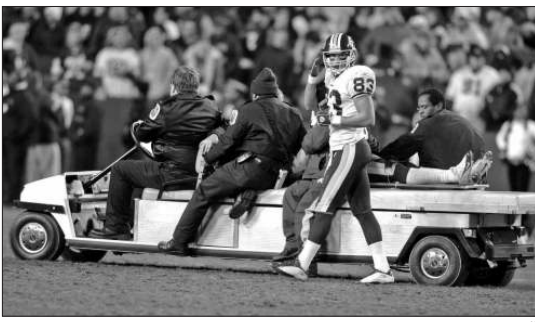
With some of the focus on coach Andy Reid's possible future spandex practice attire, the Philadelphia Eagles got an unexpectedly stiff challenge from the Washington Redskins on Sunday night before emerging with a 17-14 victory.

The Eagles (12-1) won their fifth straight, the other four by 21 points or more. They also had beaten every NFC team they'd played this season by at least 10 — until Sunday.

"You're not going to be able to go out and click on all cylinders all the time," said safety Brian Dawkins, who made a late game-saving interception. "There's going to be struggles sometimes. We're trying to build something special. These games help us because more than likely it's going to be like this in the playoffs."

The Eagles, who clinched the NFC East title two weeks ago, secured a first-round bye earlier Sunday when Atlanta beat Oakland. The victory also moved Reid ahead of Washington's Joe Gibbs into first place in winning percentage among active coaches. Reid's record is 68-34 (.667), ahead of Hall of Fame coach Gibbs' 144-74 (.661).

The tense finish left no room in



Washington's James Thrash (83) watches as teammate Shawn Springs is carted off the field with a concussion after being blocked by Philadelphia Eagles fullback Josh Parry during the fourth quarter Sunday night.

the locker room for any jocularity over Reid and his black spandex tights. Reid has promised to wear the tights if Terrell Owens catches 15 touchdown passes this season, but Owens remained at 14 after being held to six catches for 46 yards. He also lost a fumble at the Redskins 8 in the first half.

"It was just one of those games where it doesn't come out as crisp

as you want on both sides of the ball, but, hey, we're coming out of here 12-1," said quarterback Donovan McNabb, who completed 21 of 38 passes for 260 yards with a TD and an interception.

The Redskins fell to 4-9, assuring Gibbs of a losing record in his comeback season. His only losing mark in his first 12-year stint in Washington was 7-9 in 1988.

Washington entered the game with faint playoff hopes, but players afterward sounded as though they were happy with the moral victory and the momentum it could build for next year.

"They won the game, but they weren't us," tackle Chris Samuels said.

The Redskins had a chance to win with the ball at the Eagles' 27 inside the last 2 minutes, but

Patrick Ramsey threw into double coverage trying to hit Chris Cooley in the back corner of the end zone. Dawkins and Lit Shepard had the play covered, and Dawkins managed to stay in-bounds while cradling the ball with 1:46 to play.

"I saw the ball go up," Dawkins said. "And I was just thinking to myself, 'Make sure you catch the ball.'"

Raymond went 29-for-42 for 251 yards for the Redskins, and Laveranues Coles caught 12 passes for 100 yards despite a chronic toe injury that kept him out of practice for most of the week.

Washington was hurt by 12 penalties for 137 yards. Mike Sellers was whistled for three personals, all on special teams.

The game was marred by several injuries. Eagles linebacker Jason Short broke a leg and is out for the season. Redskins cornerback Shawn Springs was taken off on a backboard with a concussion, the result of a clean blind-side block by fullback Josh Parry. Springs was hospitalized as a precaution but will be OK, according to Gibbs.

The Eagles, already without defensive linemen Derrick Burgess and Jerome McDougle, had three more injured in the first half.

Kevin Kearse hurt his neck and limped off twice with an ankle injury, but at least he kept coming back. Hollis Thomas dislocated his left elbow and will be re-examined Monday. Corey Simon had back spasms and didn't return.

## NFL SCORES, FROM PAGE 30

### Eagles 17, Redskins 14

Philadelphia	7	0	10	0-17
Washington	7	0	9	4-9
<b>First Quarter</b>				
Was—Portis 5 run (Linnick kick), 14:14.				
Phi—12-25 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 12:40.				
<b>Third Quarter</b>				
Phi—FG Akers 38, 10:43.				
Phi—Levens 1 run (Akers kick), 25.				
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>				
Was—Portis 2 run (Linnick kick), 12:04.				
A—50-608.				

First downs	Phi	Wash
Total Net Yards	313	312
Rushes-Yards	17-67	25-88
Passing	245	224
Punt Returns	1-61	3-16
Kickoff Returns	3-45	4-137
Interceptions	2-10	1-10
Comp-Att-Int	21-31	29-46
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-10	3-27
Punts	7-41	9-40.9
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-41	12-137
Time of Possession	26:03	33:57

<b>INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS</b>	
Rushing—Philadelphia, Westbrook 6-59, McComb 2-8, Levens 3-26, Washington, Portis 23-80, Westbrook 12-59.	
Passing—Philadelphia, McNabb 21-38-1, 260, Washington, Ramsey 29-42-1, 251, Portis 1-20.	

<b>RECEIVING</b>	
Philadelphia, Westbrook 6-59, McComb 2-8, Levens 3-26, Mitchell 1-2, Washington, Portis 23-80, Westbrook 12-59, Smith 2-12, Levens 1-13, Mitchell 1-2, Washington, Portis 23-80, Westbrook 12-59, Smith 2-12, Levens 1-13, Mitchell 1-2, Washington, Portis 23-80, Westbrook 12-59, Smith 2-12, Levens 1-13, Mitchell 1-2.	
Field Goals—Philadelphia, Akers 1-6, 4:35.	
Field Goals—Washington, Linnick 4-5 (WR).	

# Ravens give Giants' Manning a lesson

The Associated Press

BAITMORRE — Operating on the assumption that things couldn't possibly get worse for Eli Manning, Tom Coughlin has decided to stick with the rookie quarterback.

Manning accounted for half of the New York Giants' six turnovers and the Baltimore Ravens took full advantage of the miscues in a 37-14 victory Sunday.

Manning went 4-for-18 for 27 yards, but two interceptions and lost a fumble before being lifted by Coughlin in the fourth quarter.

Kurt Warner twice drove the Giants downfield and produced New York's lone offensive touchdown, but the veteran will be back on the bench next week when the Giants seek to snap a six-game skid against Pittsburgh.

"Our young quarterback obviously struggled today. I gave him every opportunity to work his way through it; it was obvious at one point that it wasn't going to happen today," Coughlin said. "Kurt played very well at the end of the game, but Eli is still the starting quarterback."

Warner, who began the season as the starter, went 6-for-9 for 127 yards. But he knows that the Giants won't soon give up on Manning, the top pick in the draft.

"This guy is the quarterback of the future for the New York Giants, ... period," Warner said. "You're going to have some of these games when they're trying to grow and learn in this league."

## NFL roundup

Manning chalked up his shoddy performance as a learning experience, admitting the little went right in his fourth career start.

"I don't know if I can pin it on one thing. I didn't play well, I missed throws, I made bad decisions," he said. "You've got to give some credit to the Ravens' defense."

Coming off two straight losses in which they allowed a combined 39 fourth-quarter points, the Ravens repeatedly frustrated Manning before finally forcing him to the bench.

Manning was not alone in his frustration Sunday. The Ravens (8-5) gave the Giants a multitude of looks on defense, and the result was that New York could muster only 55 yards of offense through the first three quarters.

Kyle Boller threw a career-high four touchdown passes for the Ravens, who led by 20 points at halftime and 37-7 entering the fourth quarter.

Clarence Moore and Todd Heap had two touchdown catches apiece, and Chester Taylor ran for 104 yards. Jamal Lewis started at tailback for the Ravens, but saw limited action because of an ankle sprain that kept him out of last week's 27-26 loss to Cincinnati.

In that game, the Ravens allowed the Bengals to score 24 fourth-quarter points, one week after New England scored 21 points in the second half in a 24-3 win.

On Sunday, however, Baltimore's defense dominated.

"Our guys did a good job of responding after last week," Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Nolan said.

Boller went 18-for-34 for 219 yards. He hadn't thrown more than two TD passes in a game over his first 21 NFL starts.

**Seahawks 27, Vikings 23:** At Minneapolis, Randy Moss' option pass with about 2 minutes remaining was picked off in the end zone by rookie Michael Boulware. Matt Hasselbeck had three first-half touchdown passes for Seattle (7-6), which leads the Rams by a game in the NFC West.

Minnesota (7-6) lost for the fifth time in seven games and dropped a game behind Green Bay in the NFC North. Moss caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown.

**Bills 37, Browns 7:** Back from injury and moved from cornerback to free safety, Troy Vincent had an interception, fumble recovery and sack as the Bills (7-6) won their fourth straight game and sixth in their last seven.

Host Buffalo held the blundering Browns to 17 yards, forcing five turnovers and adding eight sacks. Cleveland (3-10) had

gained 2 yards with 9:34 left in the game, finishing with the NFL record of minus-7 yards, set by Seattle in 1979.

Willis McGahee had 105 yards rushing and scored runs of 6 and 13 yards.

**Jaguars 22, Bears 3:** At Jacksonville, the Jaguars (7-6) ended a three-game losing streak and remained a game back in the AFC wild-card race. The Bears (5-8) barely have playoff hopes in the NFC.

Byron Leftwich threw two touchdowns, and rookie wide receiver Reggie Williams had his most productive game with four receptions for 62 yards.

**Saints 27, Cowboys 13:** Dallas (5-8) had won consecutive games, but lost its first offense after leading 10-0 after the first quarter. Instead, it lost at home to a team that had lost three straight. The Saints (5-8) took an overtime first round victory over the Cowboys in 10 tries.

Deuce McAllister ran for two touchdowns, and Joe Horn added a 31-yard TD catch.

**49ers 31, Cardinals 28 (OT):** The 49ers (2-11) have only beaten the Cardinals (4-9) this season, both times in overtime by the Cardinals. Todd Manney's 31-yard field goal in overtime won it after San Francisco blew a 25-point lead. Neil Rackers' 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds to go sealed the overtime win.

Backup Maurice Hicks rushed for 139 yards for the Niners.

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# It's curtains for Jets after Bettis comes on

## Steelers finally put Jets away as veteran shines in 4th quarter

BY ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Just like the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles before them, the New York Jets left Pittsburgh frustrated and confused after losing to perhaps the most surprising Steelers team in franchise history.

There was one difference: the Jets acted as if they wouldn't mind coming back.

Unlike their earlier routs of New England and Philadelphia, the Steelers (12-1) didn't overwhelm the Jets (9-4) during a tightly played 17-6 victory Sunday. It was 3-3 until early in the fourth quarter, when Jerome Bettis' running and passing made the difference in Pittsburgh's team record-tying 11th consecutive victory.

Maybe that's why Curtis Martin is looking forward to a possible return visit to his hometown during the playoffs, even if an exasperating day filled with penalties and failed opportunities slowed the Jets' drive to the postseason.

"I hope we come back here. I hate losing, period, but I especially hate losing here," Martin said. "I'd love to have a second chance."

Bettis is making the most of his second chance with Pittsburgh.

Demoted to the bench last season and rarely used early this season except during short-yardage situations, he carried the Steelers with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jerome Tuman and a 12-yard TD run.



Jerome Bettis (36) ran for a touchdown and passed for one Sunday in pacing Pittsburgh to a 17-6 defeat of the New York Jets. Bettis also surpassed 100,000 career rushing yards.

On a day both Martin and Bettis surpassed the 13,000-yard career rushing mark, Martin said afterward, "I tip my hat to him" — and it wasn't because Bettis was wearing a brand-new AFC North championship cap.

Bettis is proving to be one of the Steelers' most valuable players. He had four

consecutive 100-yard games while substituting for injured Duce Staley, then replaced the ineffective Staley (16 carries, 51 yards) Sunday to key Pittsburgh's decisive fourth quarter.

Bettis' day was so productive that he hardly minded that Martin outrushed him 72-57 to overtake him for fifth place in

NFL career rushing. Martin has 13,046 yards to Bettis' 13,037. Only four others have reached 13,000 yards, and it was the first time in NFL history two did so in the same game.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself," wide receiver Hines Ward said.

Chad Pennington blamed the loss on himself following a mistake-filled day in which he threw three interceptions — only one fewer than he had all season — and the Jets drew 12 penalties for 84 yards in the first half. They began the game as the NFL's second-least penalized team.

"We're going to go as far as I take the team. That's how they view the NFL," said Pennington, who was 17-for-31 for 189 yards. "I'm better than I played. There were just too many errant throws and bad reads. I didn't manage the game very well."

Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger could have said much the same thing, at least until the fourth quarter. He started 3-for-11, but completed six of his final eight throws to finish 9-for-19 for 144 yards.

"When the game was there in the fourth quarter, he never really fretted," coach Bill Cowher said.

If nothing else, that might explain how a Steelers team that is virtually unchanged from last season, except for adding Roethlisberger and Staley, is 12-1 — matching the best 13-game record in team history. They can become the first Steelers team to win 12 in a row if they beat the New York Giants (5-8) on Saturday.

"They made the plays, and that's what good teams do, what championship teams do," Jets coach Herman Edwards said. "Their guys played better than us in the fourth quarter."

## San Diego's defense comes to the rescue

BY BERNIE WILSON  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — LaDanian Tomlinson fumbled at a critical time. Drew Brees had two passes intercepted for the first time in three months.

The San Diego Chargers' defense got them all back, plus one more.

"When you're winning, the momentum goes to your side," linebacker Donnie Edwards said. "The bounces tend to go your way."

He should know. Edwards had two interceptions for his hometown Chargers on Sunday, returning the second 30 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 4:09 left to help the Chargers beat Tampa Bay 31-24 for their seventh straight victory.

The Chargers (10-3) moved closer to their first playoff berth in nine seasons. They've won 10 games for the first time since their 1994 Super Bowl season, a huge turnaround from their recent misery of losing at least 10 games five times in the last seven seasons.

"I've been playing nine years and to get 10 wins is awesome," Edwards said. "These times don't come around too often, so we take advantage and keep on going."

It was the third straight week that the defense helped seal a vic-

tory and the second straight week the Chargers had four takeaways. They intercepted three passes off Brian Griese, and the quarterback also lost a fumble.

"Any time you have three turnovers, the defense is going to have to get the ball back for you," said Tomlinson, who gained 131 yards on 25 carries and scored on a 7-yard run that gave San Diego a 21-14 lead late in the third quarter.

But he also fumbled at the end of a 17-yard run with 8 minutes left and Tampa Bay's Dewayne White recovered at the San Diego 37.

Griese hit standout rookie Michael Clayton on a 20-yard touchdown pass with 6:53 left to tie it 21-21. Clayton, who appeared to push off cornerback Quentin Jammer, tipped the ball to himself with his right hand.

Clayton was the intended receiver on the pass Edwards picked off for the TD.

"That was huge," said Edwards, who ran over to the stands and gave the ball to an aunt who helped him growing up in a lower-middle-class neighborhood in National City, just south of downtown San Diego.

Griese made a desperation attempt to tackle Edwards, but ended up on his back as the linebacker ran into the end zone and raised both arms in celebration.



San Diego's Donnie Edwards had two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, and also had 16 tackles Sunday in the Chargers' 31-24 victory over Tampa Bay.

Edwards said he knew the Buccaneers were going to throw a quick pass.

"I don't think he ever saw me," Edwards said.

"It's a shame, because it kind of wasted a good effort by our team," Griese said. "I feel bad."

A few minutes after Edwards' interception, the Chargers got the ball back when Inebarber Steve Foley hit Griese while he was scrambling, forcing a fumble that Shaun Phillips recovered. Rookie Nate Kaeding sealed it with a 40-yard field goal with 2:06 left.

## Winning ugly just fine for struggling Denver

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

DENVER — The star tailback got benched and got his job back, all in one game. The streaky quarterback threw two interceptions, made an obscene gesture to his own fans and still walked out of it with a victory.

It was a strange, unsettling afternoon in Denver, where the Broncos eked out a 20-17 win over the woeful Miami Dolphins on Sunday despite the travails of fumble-prone Reuben Droughns and headbashed Jake Plummer.

Tatum Bell ran for 123 yards after Droughns fumbled twice early, only to relinquish the job back to Droughns after he sprained his shoulder. Jason Elam kicked a 50-yard field goal with 2:50 left to bail the Broncos (8-5) out of the whole mess and keep them in the playoff hunt.

"We definitely needed that game to get some confidence back, get some swagger back," Elam said. "It helps us feel good about ourselves."

Or did it? Plummer's first interception was greeted by boos — not the first time the embattled quarterback has heard them in his season-plus in Denver. He responded by reaching his hand behind his head and making an obscene gesture to a fan after he sat down on the bench.

The scene was caught by TV cameras.

"One guy got into my head a little bit, it shouldn't be that way," Plummer said. "I'm an emotional guy. I apologize. ... I would never direct that at our fans. We have the greatest fans in the league."

Playing before an announced sellout crowd that included nearly 5,100 no-shows, the Broncos snapped a two-game losing streak and stood on the edge of a berth in the AFC's final playoff spot. But they hardly looked like playoff material on this, a day in which they got pushed to the edge by one of the worst teams in the league.

"We fought," was about the best thing coach Mike Shanahan could say about the win. "We just had to keep on fighting until you get tired, and that is what I was proud of."

The Dolphins (2-11) weren't out of it until A.J. Feeley threw in-complete to Derritus Thompson on fourth-and-3 with 1:59 left — a play on which Browns cornerback Kelly Herndon appeared to be draped all over Thompson before the ball arrived.

"We should have had the catch," Miami coach Jim Bates said. "The guy was behind the corner. His back. The ball was thrown right there."

Plummer finished 16-of-30 for 219 yards.



# Manning falls short of TD record

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — No. 45 was a simple 3-yard flier to his favorite target. No. 46 was vintage Peyton Manning, a 12-yard bullet between two defenders.

Nos. 47, 48 and 49 will have to wait.

Don Marino's record will stand for at least another week or two.

Manning came up short in his bid to tie Marino's 20-year-old NFL mark of 48 touchdown passes in a season, throwing only one Sunday in the Indianapolis Colts' 23-14 victory over the Houston Texans.

He has three more games to break the record, though the task figures to get much tougher. The Colts will face Baltimore, San Diego and Denver — three of the NFL's top-11 defenses — to close out the regular season.

"Honestly, I was hoping against hope that we'd get it down here so we can be done with it," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "I'm sure it will get bigger each week. We'll just have to deal with it."

Manning threw touchdown passes on the Colts' first two drives, but Indianapolis (10-3) didn't get into the end zone, Manning for the first time in nine games, again having fewer than three TD passes.

He still broke one of Marino's records, just not the one everybody is talking about.

It was his 13th straight multi-TD game, breaking a record held by Marino, Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith and Brett Favre. Unitas was the only other to do it at the beginning of a season, for the Colts 45 years ago in the midst of his record 47 straight games with a TD pass.

After Manning's fast start, the Colts settled for three field goals by Mike Vanderjagt (30, 43 and 44 yards) in the second half.

"That's how it's going to be sometimes," receiver Brandon Stokley said. "You can't score 40 points every time."

The way Manning started Sunday, it looked as if he would catch Marino by half-time.

Seven plays after Jason David intercepted a pass by David Carr at the Texans 38, Manning threw a 3-yard TD pass to Marvin Harrison — the 81st after Manning and Harrison, the second-most for a quarterback-receiver duo behind 85 by Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

The Texans (5-8) then went three-and-out, and Indianapolis went 72 yards on eight plays — four passes and four runs by James.

Manning fired a ball to Wayne in the end zone despite tight coverage with 3:37 left in the first quarter to put the Colts up 14-0.

"It doesn't matter what you do in those other three quarters," Texans defensive lineman Robaire Smith said. "You can't spot a good team 14 points and expect to win."

But Manning and the Colts were sloppy at times, in one sequence having three penalties in a four-play stretch.

The only other time Manning threw into the end zone, Stokley made a diving attempt on a ball in the third quarter just before Vanderjagt's 30-yard field goal for a 17-7 lead.

Manning later missed on two wide-open throws that could have gone for scores, one to Harrison in the third and another that sailed just out of Reggie Wayne's reach in the fourth.

He finished 26-for-33 for 298 yards.

Ederjenn James ran for 104 yards on 28 carries, and had seven catches for 54 yards.

Afterward, Manning put on a happy face when questions about the record he didn't get came up — repeatedly — in the locker room. It was a lot easier to smile, of course, when he placed a brand new black AFC South champions cap atop his sweaty head.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes in the Colts 23-14 win over the Texans.

"I'm really enjoying the ride," said Manning, who led the Colts to their fifth playoff berth in his seven season. "I threw 29 last year and it felt like a lot."

Dominick Davis had 201 total yards for Houston, which lost for the fifth time in the past six games.

## Falcons wrap up NFC South

BY PAUL NEWBERY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons took a little time to celebrate their NFC South title. Then it was back to work.

Clearly, the Falcons have lofty goals than just a division championship.

"This is exciting, but it's just a step on the way to the big prize," defensive lineman Travis Hall said Sunday. "What we really want to do as a team is get to the Super Bowl — and win."

Still, this was a landmark event in Atlanta's NFL history.

T.J. Duckett set a team record by rushing for four touchdowns and the Falcons clinched just the third division title in franchise history, wrapping up the NFC South with a 35-10 rout of the Oakland Raiders.

When it was over, rookie coach Jim Mora grabbed the game ball and with his 9-year-old son at his side — held it aloft for the fans as he walked off the field.

"I haven't been here very long, so it's hard to grasp what it means," Mora said. "But I could see how it looks out there. I could see they appreciated it."

Atlanta, which last won a division title in 1998 on the way to its only Super Bowl, bounced back from a 2-0 loss at Tampa Bay that delayed the celebration.

Not that it was much of a party. The Falcons (10-3) built a 35-3 lead over the Raiders, so most of the Georgia Dome sellout didn't respond to the cheer. In the locker room afterward, Mora gave the ball to owner Arthur Blank, and the players wore black



Atlanta Falcons running back T.J. Duckett (45) scores the first of his four touchdowns against the Oakland Raiders on Sunday.

caps noting their division championship.

That was about it. No champagne. No cigars.

"This is nice," Mora said, "but there are other things we want to do."

The Falcons' less-than-stellar history is apparent from the banners hanging from the Georgia Dome roof. There are only three, marking division titles in 1980 and '98, along with the NFC championship in that latter season.

Now, it's time to put up a fourth.

The Falcons had their way against the hapless Raiders, seizing control with a 21-point second quarter.

Appropriately, Hall was in on the biggest play. One of just two

holdovers from Atlanta's last championship team, he deflected a pass by Oakland's Kerry Collins late in the first half.

The ball went right to former Raiders defensive tackle Rod Coleman, who returned the interception 39 yards for a touchdown that gave the Falcons a commanding 21-3 lead at the break.

Oakland (4-9) had three turnovers and didn't reach end zone until Jack Crockett's meaningless TD with just under 3½ minutes remaining.

"You turn the ball over like we did and you just really make it hard on yourself," coach Norv Turner said.

After going 5-11 a year ago, Atlanta has reached double figures wins for only the fourth time in its 39-year history.

## Patriots edge Bengals to clinch AFC East title

BY HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — From where Tom Brady sits, he always sees a chance to make a play until the whistle blows. Even when he's sitting on the ground.

That's where he was when he threw a completion Sunday in a 35-28 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in which the New England Patriots clinched the AFC East title with their 27th victory in 28 games.

"I wish I would have seen it," said left tackle Matt Light, who was busy blocking. "When you're an ultracompetitive team like that, there's never a point where you just stop [and say] 'that's impossible.' That's his attitude. Some way or another, it's going to work out."

The game didn't work out for the Bengals (6-7) even though they outgained the Patriots 478 yards to 351. Cincinnati, which won four of its previous five games, committed three harmful turnovers while the Patriots (12-1) committed none.

When you play a Super Bowl defending champion team like that, you just can't make mistakes," Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer said. "That's why there are so few good."

On the play on which he fell, Brady thought he tripped over a running back moving to pick up a blitz. From a seated position, he won four of his previous five games, committed three harmful turnovers while the Patriots (12-1) committed none.

Brady thought he tripped over a running back moving to pick up a blitz. From a seated position, he won four of his previous five games, committed three harmful turnovers while the Patriots (12-1) committed none.

"It happened so fast, I realized I had a little time and I tried to get my eyes over there," Brady said. "I don't want to do that too often. The percentages are against you on a play like that."

It's such a rare play that Brady can't remember it happening to him in a game.

"Probably never," he said. "My dad and my sisters used to throw me on the ground and then I would be firing stuff [at them]."

After Pass' catch, Brady ran 2 yards for a first down then completed his next four passes. The last was a 17-yard touchdown that a wide-open Christian Fauria leaped for and the Patriots led 35-14 after the first series of the third quarter.

The Bengals came back, even though Palmer left the game late in the third quarter with a sprained left knee. He was on crutches after the game, and coach Marvin Lewis said his condition was day-to-day.

"I felt a little pop," Palmer said. "I should be OK to play."

His last drive led to Kyle Larson's 11-yard touchdown run on a fake field goal. The Bengals then reached the Patriots 10 early in the fourth quarter, but Troy Brown intercepted Jon Kitna's pass in the end zone.

Then Kitna threw a 27-yard scoring pass to Kelley Washington, and the Bengals trailed just 35-28 with 3:30 left. But they never got the ball back.

"We've lost games because we've made key mistakes," Washington said. "We've moved the ball. We have the talent. But we're not mature enough yet." The Bengals took the opening kickoff and marched to the Patriots' 12-yard line. Then Rudi Johnson fumbled and Willie McGinest recovered. The Patriots won 34 yards and scored on a 1-yard run by Corey Dillon as they scored first for the 18th straight game, an NFL record.



Green Bay Packers defenders Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Grady Jackson (75) and Nick Barnett (56) wrap up Detroit Lions running back Kevin Jones (34) during the fourth quarter Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

# Packers haul down Lions

## Detroit blows 13-point lead, falls back in NFC North

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre always sees it that the Detroit Lions' flight home over Lake Michigan isn't short and sweet.

The Lions blew a 13-point half-time lead and a big chance to get back into the playoff picture in the muddled NFC North on Sunday when they lost 16-13 to Green Bay in a game in which they only trailed for the final 2 seconds.

They sure felt good about their chances of winning in Wisconsin for the first time since 1991, the year before Favre's arrival, when Alhman Green's 79-yard touchdown on a screen pass was negated by a deflating holding call on rookie center Scott Wells in the third quarter with Detroit leading 13-3.

The Packers were backed up to the 13 and starting straight into a flag-snapping 35 mph wind and swirling snow flurries. But Wells shook off the penalty, and nine plays later, Favre split Bracy Walker and Keith Smith for a 23-yard touchdown throw to Donald Driver.

Ryan Longwell added fourth-quarter field goals of 28 and 23 yards as the Packers (8-5) overtook Minnesota, who lost at home to Seattle, atop the NFC North. The Lions fell to 5-8.

Wells, who started for Grey Ruesgaer (ankle), thought his block on weakside linebacker James Davis that sprung Green through the second wave of defenders was legal.

"I was running down the field. I was probably on the other 30-yard line. So, I threw my arms up in the air for the touchdown and I turned around and saw the flag," Wells said.

He was disappointed but not dispirited.

"I'm kind of laid back so I kind of laughed it off. I disagreed with the call. I thought it was a good block," Wells said. "It's frustrating any time they take points off the board, especially when they call your number out for it. But luckily we were able to keep the drive going and put some points on the board."

Although Longwell would win it with his 43rd straight conversion inside 40 yards, coach Mike Sherman said the resolve his of-

fense showed after the holding penalty was the key to the comeback.

"To be able to overcome that devastation, because we're struggling and we're struggling and we're struggling, and to be able to have it and then take it away, I think it shows the determination of our guys to keep fighting," Sherman said. "I thought that was a telling moment."

Favre led Green Bay back from a 13-0 halftime deficit by completing 16 of 21 passes for 160 yards in the second half after going just 3-for-15 for 28 yards in the first half.

Snow flurries dampened the field into what Longwell called a "swampy mess" and swirling wind wreaked havoc on passes, punts and long snaps and caused a slew of drops.

"I've always said there is nothing routine about a field goal and today there was nothing routine about extra points," Longwell said.

Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington completed just 5 of 22 passes for 47 yards as the Lions relied on rookie running back Kevin Jones, who rushed 33 times for 156 yards and a touchdown.

# Panthers in playoffs?

## It's not so far-fetched after win over Rams

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Don't mention records, scores or what-if scenarios to the Carolina Panthers. They have no interest in what it will take to make the playoffs.

So focused on their one-game-at-a-time philosophy, the Panthers had no idea their 20-7 victory over St. Louis on Sunday put them in a tie for the final NFC wild-card berth.

"The only scoreboard we watch is ours," defensive tackle Brenson Buckner said. "If we don't control our scoreboard, the rest of it doesn't matter."

Right now, Carolina (6-7) is certainly in control.

The Panthers, playing nearly as well as they did during their run to the Super Bowl last season, won their fifth straight to climb into the playoff hunt. They are tied with the Rams (6-7) for the final berth, but own the head-to-head tiebreaker.

It was an unimaginable position after the Panthers opened 7-0, then started after starter to season-ending injuries.

"Look, we don't even have a winning record yet," quarterback Jake Delhomme cautioned. "We are still a ways away."

But they got a lot closer Sunday behind a defense that set a franchise record with six interceptions, three sacks, and a fumble recovery on a muffed punt.

Feeding off the defense, the Panthers got touchdowns from Muhsin Muhammad and Nick Goings and two field goals from John Kasay in a rematch of January's thrilling NFC divisional playoff.

But this one wasn't nearly as dramatic as Carolina's 29-23 win in double overtime, mainly because the teams are very different than they were in January.

For starters, 10 of Carolina's 22 regulars from that game are either no longer with the Panthers or out with injuries. St. Louis (6-7) was without star running back Marshall Faulk, and started 39-year-old Chris Chandler at quarterback because Marc Bulger was hurt.

But the stakes were just as high, at least for Carolina.

"It's a playoff game for us



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/KRT

**Panthers running back Nick Goings (37) leaps over the St. Louis Rams defense for a touchdown in the first quarter of Carolina's 20-7 victory on Sunday.**

every time we go on the field," cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. said. "This is it for us. The hole we put ourselves in, the only way out of it is to win every game and keep the season going."

Manning took the first step, intercepting Chandler on the Rams' first series to set up Carolina's first touchdown. It was Manning who set up Carolina's playoff victory, as well, when he ended a St. Louis drive by wrestling the ball away from Torry Holt to give the Panthers possession for their winning drive.

Dan Morgan, back from a three-game absence with a concussion, had two interceptions to the Manning for the team lead, and Will Witherspoon and rookie Chris Gamble each added a pick.

Morgan had no idea which of the six interceptions meant the most.

"There were so many, I forgot all of them," he said.

Making his first start in over a year, Chandler never let a crisp. But the 17-year veteran still made a handful of athletic plays, including a 52-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce that was negated by a holding call.

Chandler did throw a 75-yard TD pass to Holt at the end of the first quarter, when the Rams converted on third-and-9. Chandler finished 16-for-29 for 243 yards, one touchdown, six interceptions and was sacked three times.

Carolina's 20-7 win over the Rams had 151 yards and a touchdown on six catches in a 16-13 loss to the Rams.

### Running backs

■ **Donato Davis**, Tampa Bay, had 201 total yards for Houston. He had 23 carries for 147 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 13 yards.

■ **Clinton Portis**, Washington, carried 131 yards on 25 carries, and scored twice in a 31-28 overtime win over Tampa Bay.

■ **Marshall Faulk**, St. Louis, carried 131 yards on 25 carries, and scored twice in a 31-28 overtime win over Arizona.

### Special teams

■ **Jason Elam**, Broncos, kicked a 20-yard field goal to help Denver beat Miami 20-17.

■ **Tommy Smith**, Packers, kicked a 22-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining to give Green Bay a 17-16 win over the Lions. It was Longwell's third game-winning kick.

■ **Todd Peterson**, 49ers, kicked a 20-yard field goal to help San Francisco to a 31-28 victory over Arizona.

■ **Tatum Bell**, Broncos, ran for 123



### Sunday's NFL stars:

■ **Peyton Manning**, Colts, was 25-of-33 for 298 yards and two touchdowns, getting within two of Dan Marino's 20-year-old record of 48 TDs in a season in a 21-14 win over the Texans.

■ **Matt Hasselbeck**, Seahawks, went 23-of-34 for 334 yards, passing and three touchdowns in a 27-23 win over Minnesota.

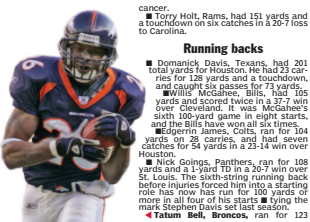
■ **Kyle Bolter**, Ravens, threw for a career-high four touchdowns and 219 yards in a 37-14 rout of the Giants.

### Receivers

■ **Donte Stallworth**, Saints, had 113 yards on five catches, in a 27-13 win over Dallas.

■ **Randy Moss**, Vikings, caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown, but threw a crucial interception in a 27-23 loss to the Seahawks.

■ **Deion Jackson**, Seahawks, had 10 receptions for 136 yards and a touchdown, but was injured over the Vikings after learning in the morning his father had died of



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## SPORTS



Bryant accuses Malone of making pass at his wife, then helps Lakers beat Magic, Pages 27, 28

# 4 score with 3 games to go

## Steelers, Pats, Colts, Falcons win to lock up division titles

The Associated Press

**F**our teams took the first big step toward the Super Bowl by clinching division titles, joining the Philadelphia Eagles, who already wrapped up the NFC East crown.

Defending Super Bowl champion New England won the AFC East when it beat Cincinnati 35-28 and the New York Jets lost at Pittsburgh 17-6.

Pittsburgh's victory also earned the Steelers the AFC North title.

Indianapolis captured the AFC South with a 23-14 victory at Houston, and Atlanta took the NFC South when it beat Oakland 35-10.

The Steelers and Patriots, though, still have a lot on the line in the last three weeks — home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Both are 12-1, but Pittsburgh holds the tiebreaker because it beat New England.

"Everybody keeps waiting for us to have a letdown, but each week someone steps up and makes big plays," Steelers receiver Hines Ward said after Pittsburgh won its 11th straight with rookie Ben Roethlisberger as the starting quarterback.

Roethlisberger was only 9-for-19 for 144 yards but Jerome Bettis made up for it by throwing for a touchdown and running for another, both in the fourth quarter.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself," Ward said.

The Patriots got key plays from quarterback Tom Brady (two touchdown passes), their defense (two red zone turnovers) and running back Corey Dillon against Dillon's old team, the Bengals, to get to the playoffs for the third time in four years, but Dillon's first time in eight years.

"We are excited about [the division title]," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said. "We will enjoy this victory for a day or two."

T.J. Duckett set a Falcons team record by rushing for four touchdowns to secure just the third division crown in Atlanta's history, but there was little celebration.

"This is exciting, but it's just a step on the way to the big prize," defensive lineman Travis Hall said Sunday. "What we really want to do as a team is get to the Super Bowl — and win."

In Houston, the Texans allowed Peyton Manning only two touchdown passes — he still needs two to tie Dan Marino's record 48 — but they couldn't keep the Colts from winning their second straight AFC South title.

"We got what we wanted today, and that was to win," Manning said.

■ See game coverage on Pages 31-34



AP photos

Clockwise from above: ■ Steelers running back Jerome Bettis celebrates a fourth quarter touchdown run against the Jets. Bettis also threw for a fourth-quarter score as Pittsburgh won the AFC North with the victory. ■ Colts QB Peyton Manning (18) threw two early touchdown passes, but that was it, leaving him two short of Dan Marino's record 48. Still, Indianapolis won the AFC South for a second straight year by beating the Texans. ■ Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel (22) is congratulated by teammate Rodney Harrison after Samuel returned an interception 34 yards for a touchdown in their victory over Cincinnati. That, coupled with the Jets loss to the Steelers, secured the AFC East for New England. The Patriots and Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. ■ Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) and running back T.J. Duckett exchange high fives in the second half. Duckett ran for four TDs as Atlanta wrapped up the NFC South by whipping the Raiders.



## Weis, Willingham, Harris fill high-profile vacancies

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